



January 11th, 2012 ■ Issue No. 17 ■ Volume 102

THE gateway

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



THE

gateway

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Wednesday, January 11, 2012
Volume 102 Issue No. 17

Published since November 21, 1910
Circulation 8,000
ISSN 0845-356X

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The Gateway is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

The Gateway is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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The Gateway periodically adjusts its circulation between 7,000 to 10,000 printed copies based on market fluctuations and other determining factors.

colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers and HP Scanjet flatbed scanners. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of **Fairplex**, **Utopia**, **Proxima Nova Extra Condensed**, and **T'isa**. *The Manitoban* is *The Gateway's* sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." *The Gateway's* games of choice are **Puzz3D** and **Gotham City Imposters**.

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U of A at the peak of mountain studies

April Hudson
STAFF REPORTER • @APRIL_HUDSON

A new initiative in mountain studies is fast becoming an interdisciplinary avalanche at the University of Alberta, breaking down barriers between faculties and providing hands-on experiences for students interested in the great outdoors.

The Mountain Studies Initiative, which was spearheaded by English professor Stephen Slemon and associate professor Zac Robinson from the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, picked 25 scholars from different faculties and officially launched in December 2011 after years of planning. It's a preliminary initiative for what could become North America's first mountain studies institute.

"The entire initiative took place a few years ago, prior to my arrival here as dean," said Kerry Mummery, dean of physical education and recreation, who spent 14 years in Australia before coming back to the U of A.

"When I knew that I was coming back to Alberta, (I thought) what are the points of differentiation that we want at the U of A? And I said, well, we need something in the mountains."

Upon returning to Edmonton, Mummery met with Robinson, who told him about a group doing some work on a mountain initiative.

"Once I (came) here with the idea of doing something in the mountains, (Robinson and I) ran into each other," Mummery explained. "That's really what (brought) this initiative forward, with the specific intention that we are seeking to form a formal institute."

After Mummery threw his support behind the initiative, deans from other faculties such as arts and science began to support the concept of developing an interdisciplinary group that studies the mountains.

"I think it's the multidisciplinary aspect of it that's very interesting, and also of course focusing on one of our greatest natural resources," Mummery said.

"Nobody in Australia really knows about Wayne Gretzky, nobody knows about ice hockey, nobody really knows about a lot of the things that we take for granted. One of the things they do know about is the Rocky Mountains."

"I think it'll be a great attraction for domestic students to come, because the institute will likely also have undergraduate teaching components and graduate teaching components to it."

KERRY MUMMERY
DEAN, FACULTY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION & RECREATION

Mummery added that mountain studies, while not yet a formal institute, is something that differentiates both the faculty and the university from others on a national and even global level.

"I think it'll be a great attraction for domestic students to come, because the institute will likely also have undergraduate teaching components and graduate teaching

components to it," Mummery said. "It'll be a great attraction to people from across Canada and around the world to come and study (and) research here."

Earth Sciences professor Andrew Bush, who was brought into the initiative by Slemon during its early stages, said the response to Mountain Studies has been overwhelming.

"Other universities — the University of Arizona, for example, and the University of Calgary — they're very interested in this initiative," Bush said. "I think this will certainly put the University of Alberta on the map for mountain research."

Planning for the initiative has been going on for a couple years, despite its December launch, according to Bush.

"On the downside, we still have a budget of zero, so we're doing this with no money," Bush said. "There's a lot of support from upper administration, which is great, and there's a lot of interest outside the university. This would be unique, certainly, in North America."


Slemon said that one of the most exciting things about this initiative was finding out there was already a basis for mountain studies at the university.

"We thought we would just go and start seeking people who did work on mountain studies and pull them together into a room and just say, 'Hey guys, what do you think?'" Slemon said. "It was so neat to suddenly discover there were all these people at the university who are working in mountain studies."


"I'm not surprised the university is putting it on its front page and boasting about it, because it actually is that good."

streeters


COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY April Hudson + Sam Brooks




Nolan Jensen ENGINEERING I
"Tuition fees."



Athar Elhakim PHARMACY II
"The walking distances between classes."



Deshane Deenoo SCIENCE III
"I've put on a lot of extra weight, so I guess sue them for that extra weight."



Monir Imamverdi SCIENCE I
"Book prices and a lack of power outlets. It pisses me off."

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FILE PHOTO: PAUL SWANSON

South Campus coalition sues U of A over consultation issues

April Hudson

STAFF REPORTER • @APRIL_HUDSON

A coalition of South Campus communities has filed a lawsuit against the University of Alberta, claiming the institution failed its mandate to properly consult with neighbourhoods around South Campus about the development of an old curling rink.

The South Campus Neighbourhood Coalition (SCNC) filed the suit in early December, hoping it would lead to a change in the U of A's consultative process after the university proposed to convert the Balmoral curling rink into a \$4.4 million radioisotope facility. The facility is part of the university's Cyclotron Project, which will produce medical isotopes that are used to diagnose and treat patients with cancer, cardiac, neurological and other diseases.

"(The radioisotope facility) is really a side part of this, because the real issue is that the university hasn't followed the steps it needs to follow to proceed with this development," said David Ridley, president of the Belgravia Community League and an SCNC representative. "We believe they don't have the legal authority to proceed as they have."

The SCNC's December newsletter stated that the university legally needed an amendment to its approved Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP) for South Campus in order to build the radioisotope facility at the Balmoral site, which was originally slated for recreational development, according to Ridley.

"We're concerned that the university's approach is becoming opportunistic — in other words, 'Here's some funding, there's some space, let's put it there,' and not necessarily part of an integrated plan for South Campus," Ridley said.

Ridley said the last time the South Campus neighbourhoods were meaningfully involved in South Campus development was in 2002, when the university finalized the LRDP.

"Those of us who live in the neighbourhoods close to the university choose to do so, and we accept and fully understand that South Campus, and the main campus, and Campus Saint Jean will develop," Ridley said. "We're only asking the university to meet its legal requirements in doing that, and making changes in the consultation (process)."

However, University Provost and

Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein said the coalition's lawsuit could have serious negative effects on Alberta Health Services if they succeed in stopping the building of the Balmoral radioisotope facility.

"The coalition's papers would go to a judge and seek an order to stop the Cyclotron Project," Amrhein said. "That's what the legal action is all about."

"They are asking that we recognize SCNC, that we provide funding, and a few other items that would essentially require us to deviate from our past process," Amrhein added.

Such funding would go towards supporting the participation of small volunteer organizations, like the SCNC, or surrounding community leagues who have an interest in the university's planning and development, in the discussion

collect responses.

"We're doing an analysis to see if we in fact have failed to do that," Amrhein said. "We are convinced beyond any reasonable doubt that we have met the spirit of the intended consultative process."

Associate Vice-President (External Relations) Deb Hammacher said the university has pursued months of meetings, open houses and discussions around developments at South Campus, dating back to 2008.

"We were quite surprised (by the SCNC's actions)," Hammacher said. "We have been having a lot of good conversations, and we have expanded the consultative process."

Hammacher added that each of the 11 communities in the UACC is allowed two representatives, and most only have one.

"We're concerned that the university's approach is becoming opportunistic — in other words, 'Here's some funding, there's some space, let's put it there,' and not necessarily part of an integrated plan for South Campus."

DAVID RIDLEY
PRESIDENT, BELGRAVIA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

surrounding the developments.

In the past, the university's consultation process has been conducted through meetings and discussions with the University of Alberta Community Consultation Committee (UACC), a recognized group with members elected from community leagues.

Before the lawsuit was filed, the university was aware that some members around the South Campus community were upset with the way the university was proposing to do things, according to Amrhein. The university has had conflicts with the neighbourhoods over past issues such as increasing parking and the newly-opened GO Centre.

"The university is a big and complex organization, and there are many community groups. We would never imagine that everybody would be happy," Amrhein said.

"But we did meet faithfully with the UACC, and it was our impression based on what was said in the meetings that we had broadly defined support for the Balmoral project."

Amrhein said that two of the steps the university missed, according to the SCNC, were to notify people within 60 metres of the project, as well as to put an ad in the newspaper about the project in order to

"We've met with these people every two months since 2001, and the agenda is mutually agreed upon — they bring issues to the table, we bring issues to the table," she said. "There are places at the UACC for people who are part of (the SCNC) to be part of the recognized representative group of the community."

However, Ridley said the UACC does not meet the needs of the neighbourhoods surrounding South Campus, and that it is a university process instead of a community process. He added that the lawsuit's main intention isn't to shut down the Balmoral facility, but rather to present concerns to the university about how it has approached changes to the LRDP and the consultation process.

"At this point, what we're hoping for is that we can actually sit down with the university and say, 'Okay, is there a way we can get this back on track?'" Ridley said.

"In order to get to that, yes, the request for the court intervention indicates that because the university hasn't followed the proper process, that that project should be stopped," Ridley added. "Our aim here isn't to undermine the university's role in development. We look at it as helping it remain true and consistent to its obligations."


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SU looks at charging new \$9 fee for SUB renovations

April Hudson

STAFF REPORTER • @APRIL_HUDSON

The Students' Union is gauging support for the idea of having students pay a \$9 fee per term for renovations that would include more study space and space for student groups in the Students' Union Building.

The SU, which has been looking into the possibility of funding renovations to SUB since early 2011, sent out a survey last month that included a question asking students whether they would be willing to pay the extra \$9 per term fee in order to fund the project.

Some of the goals if the plans for the renovations go forward include increasing student study and relaxation space, and improving the accessibility and visibility of services in SUB, explained Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Andy Cheema.

"We are trying to gauge whether there's an appetite on campus for this kind of thing," Cheema said. "That was the birth of the survey question — we really wanted to ask students if this is something that the majority feels we should be working on, and that they would be willing to contribute towards."

During the summer, the Students' Union contracted with a project manager and an architectural engineering firm. Cheema said the SU has been working closely with them on a regular basis for about the last five or six months to do a feasibility study of renovations.

"In particular, we're interested in what opportunities we have to enhance the delivery of services as well as improve the space available to student groups, and to increase common lounge and relaxation space," Cheema said.

The SU's current goal is to get an idea of the technical constraints that would be involved in renovating SUB, and then to eventually produce a ballpark cost estimate. Cheema explained that the plans for renovation are largely centering around the lower level of SUB, which currently houses Student Group Services, part of the bookstore, InfoLink, and other student services.

"There is an emphasis on lower



DAN MCKECHNIE

level (renovations), but obviously the building functions as a dynamic whole," Cheema said. "So doing one thing kind of creates a domino effect, so you might have to move things to other areas of the building. We're looking at it holistically, but the current study certainly has a focus on the lower levels."

At this point, the SU hasn't made any decisions about taking the fee to referendum. If they were to move forward in this direction, that decision would have to be made by Students' Council.

"The idea of the survey was to equip council with what they need in order to make an informed decision about whether or not to ask such a question," Cheema said. "Ultimately, the idea is to give students the opportunity to voice their

opinion, collectively, on whether we should proceed."

The project has sparked interest from some students, although it is still at a preliminary stage. Charmaine Lowe, a fifth-year Arts student, said the fee was a good idea, so long as students see results.

"More facilities are great," Lowe said. "There's quite a bit of space here, but not enough to accommodate 40,000 students."

However, not all students are in favour of the fee. Stasia Lamb, a first-year nursing student, told *The Gateway* that she had reservations, particularly about paying the fee for an extended period of time.

"Maybe if the fee was a one-time thing," Lamb said. "But I wouldn't pay it for the rest of my four years, and then my masters."

The majority of construction is expected to take place during weekends and off-hours, according to an article in *Metro*.

LATE-NIGHT BUS SERVICE LAUNCHES

Edmonton's first late-night bus service started up last weekend to marginal success, with only 80 passengers riding the three buses which ran from 1:30 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. The service has, however, been dubbed a success, and passenger count is expected to rise now that holidays are over and the school year has begun again.

BEAR TRACKS DOWN

Bear Tracks had some technical difficulties on Monday, causing some users to be unable to access the website, and running slow for those who could. The website remained slow for some users into Tuesday. The U of A reported the problems were unexpected and as of yet unidentified, but IT has implemented a temporary work-around in order to provide a permanent solution.

news briefs

COMPILED BY April Hudson

U-PASS PRICES GO UP

The price of the U-Pass is going up next year from \$104.17 per term to \$116.67 per term due to an increase in service costs incurred by ETS.

The University of Alberta currently provides a subsidized U-Pass system to give students transit passes that are cheaper than the cost of purchasing them directly from Edmonton Transit.

TUITION INCREASES

Tuition is once more on the rise, albeit only by 1.45 per cent this year, which is the most the U of A can raise it as tuition increases are tied to the Consumer Price Index.

Undergraduate students in arts and sciences will see an increase of \$74.40 next year, while graduate students will face a \$52.56 increase. Residence rates and parking fees have also increased by 1.66 per cent.

SAMARASEKERA RECOGNIZED

University President Indira Samarasekera won a leadership award in December from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. The award, called the District VIII Leadership Award, is presented annually in recognition of someone who promotes understanding and support of higher education. Samarasekera won the award for her efforts in promoting growth and sustainability at the U of A.

THIRD TERM'S A CHARM

VP (Facilities and Operation) Don Hickey has been reappointed for a third five-year term as A Vice President. Hickey joined the University in 2003, and played roles in the building of CCIS and establishing the Office of Sustainability.

PEDWAY OVER 114 STREET

A new pedway is being constructed over 114 Street, connecting the Health Science LRT station to the University Hospital and the Edmonton Clinic South.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

Dean of Med, arts faculty cuts top campus stories of 2011

Ravanne Lawday
NEWS STAFF ■ @RAVIAZHARKO

PLAGIARISM LEADS TO RESIGNATION OF DEAN OF MEDICINE

Dean of Medicine and Dentistry Philip Baker resigned from his position in June 2011 following allegations that he had plagiarized his convocation speech delivered to a class of medical school graduates.

Baker was accused of borrowing portions of a speech published in *The New Yorker* by Atul Gawande, who delivered the speech a year prior at Stanford University. After the allegations surfaced, Baker promptly issued an apology to Gawande and the graduates and resigned from his position a week later. A confidential investigation was launched by university officials.

Baker returned to the U of A in October as a faculty member after a four-month leave of absence. Vice Dean of Faculty Affairs Verna Yiu is temporarily serving as dean of medicine until the university finds a suitable replacement.

FACULTY OF ARTS FACES FINANCIAL CRISIS, LAUNCHES ADPREP

Although the Faculty of Arts struggled financially the last few years from annual budget cuts, it reached

crisis mode in 2011 when the U of A reduced all faculty budgets by 2.1 per cent, due to a freeze in the operating grant by the provincial government. This left the arts faculty in a \$1.5 million deficit.

In order to accommodate the budget cut, the faculty launched the Administrative Process Review Project (AdPreP) to re-evaluate processes among support staff and find ways to potentially eliminate up to 15 positions by January 2012. AdPreP drew widespread criticism from students and staff, who argued against its lack of consultation, vague questionnaires, and the resulting atmosphere of fear and uncertainty among staff. As a result, students and staff launched a solidarity movement in order to challenge AdPreP and another impending budget cut set to take place April 2012.

NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDINGS OPEN ON CAMPUS

The U of A opened two state-of-the-art buildings on campus in 2011 following years of planning and construction: the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS), priced at half a billion dollars, and the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy, which cost \$900 million.

The 9,932 square-foot CCIS

building is situated at the northern end of quad and houses the university's Faculty of Science. CCIS officially opened in September 2011 in a ceremony that included University President Indira Samarasekera and Premier Ed Stelmach.

Only the lower three floors of the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy were made available to students in 2011, with the official opening set to take place in January 2012. The ECHA will house 1,400 members of six health sciences faculties in a student-focused environment.

U OF A GOES DODGEBALL CRAZY

The university took its dodgeball obsession to the extreme last year when the Students' Union organized the world's largest dodgeball game with 2,012 players. Spectators at the packed match included Mayor Stephen Mandel and President Indira Samarasekera. But the U of A was only able to claim the title for a few months when it was eventually snatched by fellow rivals at the University of California, Irvine, who organized a 4,488-player game. Unperturbed by the mammoth-sized game, the SU has announced preparations to reclaim the title once more with a 5,000-player game on Feb 3, 2012.

With files from Alex Migdal

Murder, arena the focus in city news

Alex Migdal
NEWS EDITOR ■ @ALEXEM

MARK TWITCHELL TRIAL TURNS INTO COURTROOM DRAMA

It was the murder case that both fascinated and horrified Edmontonians, and attracted international media attention. In the spring of 2011, all eyes were fixed on the trial of Mark Twitchell, who was accused of killing Johnny Altinger in a bizarre murder plot that seemed to come straight out of a horror film.

Over the course of several weeks, witnesses took the stand to recount the details surrounding Altinger's mysterious disappearance, including Gilles Tetreault, who had previously been lured to Twitchell's garage and escaped. Like Tetreault, Altinger responded to an internet ad from a female looking for date and was lured to the same garage where Twitchell brutally murdered and dismembered him. The key piece of evidence was Twitchell's diary, which contained lengthy entries that revealed details similar to those of Altinger's grisly death.

Twitchell eventually confessed to Altinger's murder, but argued that Altinger's death was an act of self-defence. The jurors disagreed, and on April 12, Twitchell was found guilty of first-degree murder. Twitchell has since appealed the ruling, claiming that the extensive media coverage of his case influenced the jurors' decision.

'DEADMONTON' LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

Within hours of ringing in 2011, Edmonton recorded its first homicide when 23-year-old Mohamud Jama was fatally shot while celebrating the new year with friends. It marked the start of a record-breaking year for homicides in Edmonton — 45 in total, topping the previous record of 39 in 2005.

Weekly homicides soon dominated the local headlines and Edmonton eventually claimed the notorious title of Canada's murder capital. Regardless, police assured Edmontonians they were safe, as most of the murder victims were engaged in high-risk lifestyles.

Edmonton Police Service also implemented a violence-reduction strategy, while the city offered funding for 65 extra police officers over the next two years.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES DOWNTOWN ARENA

No other city debate was as heated this year as the proposed development of a downtown arena. Proponents argued it would revitalize the city's lagging downtown core, while critics lashed out against Edmonton Oilers owner Daryl Katz's proposal that taxpayers should pay heavily to move his team out of the aging Rexall Place.

City council put the debate to rest in October 2011 when they moved forward with the proposal. The city, Katz, and taxpayers will fund the \$450 million needed to design and

construct the project. However, the arena is still lacking \$100 million, and provincial leaders haven't expressed interest in investing. In addition, either side could opt out if construction costs shoot beyond \$450 million, ultimately making the arena's future uncertain.

WEIRD WEATHER

Mother Nature was full of surprises for Edmontonians this year, offering up servings of hot and cold at the most peculiar times. Last January started off with a huge dumping of snow — six months worth, to be exact.

Winter was more frigid than usual as well, with the city experiencing -20C weather 63 days out of the year. Frequent showers in the spring made for the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes, which left Edmontonians perpetually swatting off the millions of blood-suckers invading the city.

The summer months between May and August left much to be desired, with temperatures only hitting 25C 14 times. Students were then greeted with scorching back-to-school weather the second week of September when temperatures soared above 30C.

The arrival of snow was delayed as well, with the first snowfall finally hitting the city mid-November. December was a fitting end to the strange year of weather, with hardly any snowfall and temperatures frequently reaching above zero.

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Alberta news fixed on Premier

April Hudson
STAFF REPORTER • @APRIL_HUDSON

FIRE RAVAGES TOWN OF SLAVE LAKE

On May 14, during a summer riddled by wildfires, an out-of-control fire swept down into Slave Lake, forcing the community of 7,000 to evacuate and causing upwards of \$700 million in property damage to residences and businesses. A large portion of the town was destroyed before the fire could be brought under control, and 732 people were left homeless.

Residents were allowed to return in stages 10 days after the evacuation. There were no casualties, although a helicopter pilot crashed and was killed while battling the fires.

The aftermath of the disaster saw support pour in from Alberta and across Canada. After six months of investigation into allegations of arson, the Alberta government determined in November that the fire was deliberately set, although there are still no leads on the perpetrator. Construction of new houses is underway in the town.

FIRST FEMALE PREMIER ELECTED

Former Calgary MLA Alison Redford was sworn into office on Oct. 7 as Alberta's new Premier after achieving a stunning victory under a mantra of "change."

The leadership race was initiated when former Premier Ed Stelmach announced he would not be seeking re-election and would be resigning following conflict over the 2012-2013 provincial budget.

Just days before final votes were cast, and less than 24 hours before a televised debate with her rivals, Redford's mother died from a long-standing illness. However, Redford's participation in the debate won her the respect of numerous voters. Starting from a meagre 18 per cent support two weeks earlier, Redford won narrowly over her rival, Gary Mar, in the second round of voting, garnering 51 per cent of the vote.

Redford's platform, which focused on reversing \$107 million in education cuts and rebuilding faith in public health care, garnered large support from Albertan teachers and health care workers who formerly failed to identify with the Conservative Party's policies.

Since coming into office, Redford has already made good on her promise to reverse education cuts. However, she has faced criticism on failing to keep promises such as fixed election dates and calling a judicial inquiry into claims of political interference in the health care system.

BATTLE CONTINUES OVER TRANSCANADA'S KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Controversy surrounding the building of the Keystone Pipeline sparked heated debate throughout Alberta and North America last year after massive protests broke out around the south-bound project.

The pipeline was expected to create upwards of 20,000 jobs right away, as well as hundreds of thousands more after its completion, and potentially bring in billions of dollars in revenue. However, protesters argued that the environmental price was too high. The pipeline, which would transport crude oil from Alberta to places as far as Texas, was put on hold until 2013 after US President Barack Obama came under increasing pressure from advocates on both sides of the issue.

best of campus crimebeat 2011

COMPILED BY Alex Migdal

A HANKERING FOR ALCOHOL

At 1:40 p.m. on March 8, UAPS received a report from staff of a break and enter into the bar area of the Timms Centre. The perpetrators cut the locks on the coolers and helped themselves to wine, beer, cider, and champagne. EPS were contacted and arrived to continue the investigation.

RIVALRY BOILS OVER

Event staff at Clare Drake Arena contacted UAPS on March 11 at 8 p.m. to report an assault. When UAPS officers arrived, they were told that a male had approached them to report being punched in the face by a female. Further investigation showed that the male was yelling "Calgary sucks." A female from Calgary took exception to the remarks and proceeded to punch the male. The victim told UAPS officers he didn't want to report the incident to EPS, but did say his jaw hurt. The puncher's friend apologized on her behalf.

GRAND THEFT AUTO III

At 3:45 a.m. on March 24, UAPS received a call from security at the NINT building that a male was at their front desk reporting he had just been robbed at gunpoint in Windsor car park. The robber stole the victim's car and wallet. All UAPS units were dispatched to the area and EPS was contacted. EPS advised this had been the third such incident that day and asked UAPS to be on the lookout for a grey

Oldsmobile that had been stolen earlier from a casino on Argyll Road. The first vehicle had been stolen from the River Cree Casino. The stolen Oldsmobile was recovered on the top level of Windsor car park. The victim was interviewed by EPS and given a ride home by UAPS.

WOMEN STUDIES

UAPS received a complaint from Cameron library staff of a suspicious male who had been seen looking up the skirts of female students within the library on Sept. 22. Staff stated the same male had been seen a week earlier doing the same thing.

At that time, the male had left prior to UAPS officers arriving on scene. UAPS officers attended and verbally identified a male who told the officers he wasn't a student, but was at the library doing "research" that he would not elaborate on. The male was given a written trespass notice and told to leave the area. Library staff were told to contact UAPS if the male returned to the area.

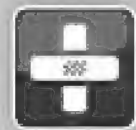
ILOST

On Oct. 3, University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS) received a complaint from a male that his iPad had been stolen while using the men's washroom in the basement of Cameron library. The male left his iPad and books on the counter and then entered a cubicle. When he exited the cubicle about five minutes later, his property was gone.

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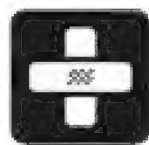
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Elections, Layton's death attract national attention

Kate Black

NEWS WRITER • @BLAHBLAHBLACK

NATIONAL ELECTION SHAKES UP HOUSE OF COMMONS

A motion of non-confidence on March 25 sent Canada into preparation for its 41st federal election, with campaigns wrapping up for national polling on May 2. The Conservative Party secured a majority government, while the NDP became the Official Opposition for the first time in its history.

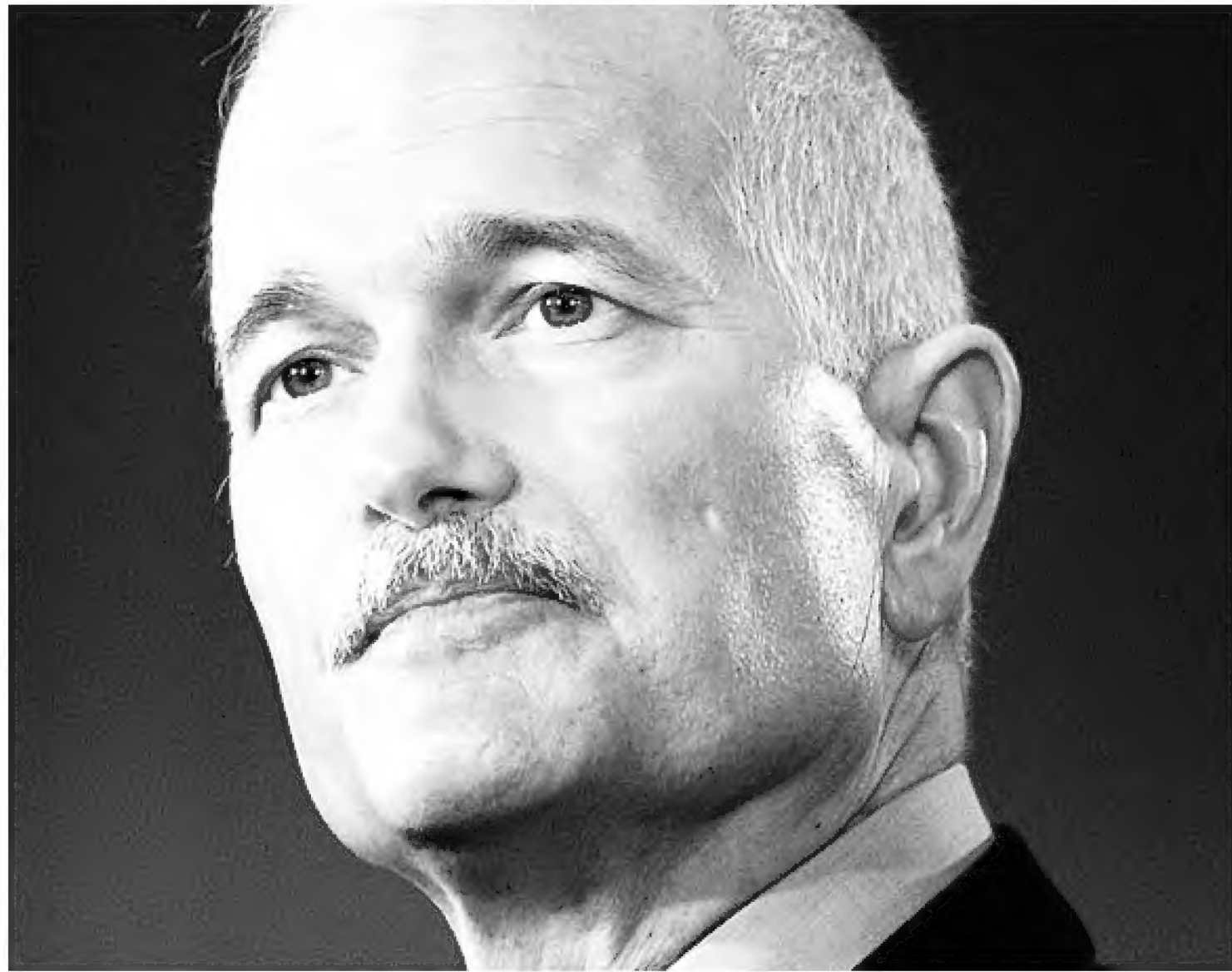
Another milestone was accomplished by Green Party leader Elizabeth May, who won the party's first seat in the House of Commons. However, the election brought dismal results for the Liberals and Bloc Québécois.

The Liberals lost 43 seats in total, causing a historic defeat for the former opposition. Leader Michael Ignatieff's outcome in his riding reflected that of his party, as he lost his seat by nearly 3,000 votes. The Bloc endured bleak results in Quebec, losing a massive 43 seats and winning only four, less than the 12 needed for official party status in the House of Commons. Leader Gilles Duceppe also lost in his riding, leading to his resignation shortly afterwards.

JACK LAYTON'S DEATH INCITES NATIONAL GRIEF

NDP Leader Jack Layton emerged as a charismatic and popular figure during the 2011 elections, making his untimely death from cancer last summer a tragic event for citizens across Canada.

In late July, Layton stepped down as the NDP's leader to undergo further treatment for cancer following public appearances where he appeared weak and frail. Nearly a month later, the news of Layton's death shook the nation. Vigils were organized



SUPPLIED: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

nationwide in order to commemorate Layton's memory, and he was accorded a state funeral at the end of August.

VIOLENT RIOTS WREAK HAVOC IN VANCOUVER

On June 15, a crowd of nearly 155,000 people rioted in the streets of Vancouver following the Canucks' loss to the Boston Bruins in the seventh game of the Stanley Cup final.

Nearly 450 police officers were present during the riots, but were unable to stop the looting, violence, and destruction that caused some \$5 million of damage on the city. Sixty alleged rioters were identified in October after the Vancouver Police Department urged the public to come forward with information via online pictures and videos, and police recommended multiple charges against some of the identified rioters.

HOUSING CRISIS GRIPS THE COMMUNITY OF ATTAWAPISKAT

On Oct. 28, Attawapiskat First Nations chief Teresa Spence declared

the northern Ontario community of Attawapiskat in a state of emergency due to an ongoing housing crisis that left families in dire living conditions.

Reports likened the community's situation to that of a third-world nation, with overcrowding and unsanitary management of waste attracting particular attention from United Nation's Human Rights official, James Anaya. The unfolding on the Attawapiskat Crisis presented a back-and-forth passing of blame between Spence and the Canadian government, which has provided the community with \$90 million in funding since 2006.

Despite having visited multiple times in the past year, Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said that officials were unaware of the housing problem. A visit to the community in December by a CBC journalist revealed a continuing lack of adequate, clean shelter, despite Duncan's claims that such resources were being provided on an emergency basis.

Protests dominate world headlines

Scott Fenwick

NEWS STAFF

ARAB SPRING AND THE LIBYAN WAR

Throughout 2011, popular revolts against Arab dictatorships popped up across the Middle East, commonly known as the "Arab Spring," leading to mass demonstrations, civil wars and the fall of governments.

The movement began in Tunisia in December 2010, and led to the government's overthrow Jan. 14. Within two weeks, protests erupted in central Cairo against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Following local and international pressure, Mubarak resigned on Feb. 11.

A similar revolt occurred against Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, triggering a civil war. Western governments helped Libyan rebels with aerial bombings and intelligence, leading to Gaddafi's overthrow and his execution by Libyan rebels on Oct. 20.

EARTHQUAKE HITS JAPAN

On March 11, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck 70 kilometres off the eastern coast of Japan, one of the most powerful in the country's history. It led to 15,844 deaths, 5,890 injured and 3,451 missing people.

The earthquake created a tsunami with five to eight metre high waves that hit the Japanese coast, leading to the destruction of entire towns. The earthquake's most

dangerous effect was a meltdown at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, the largest nuclear disaster since the 1986 Chernobyl meltdown.

The meltdown at Fukushima was caused by cooling system failures that led reactors to overheat. The incident led to widespread disapproval of proposed nuclear power projects worldwide.

DEATH OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

In the early morning hours of May 2 in rural Pakistan, a United States Special Forces unit killed Osama bin Laden, head of the militant Islamist group al-Qaeda and mastermind of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The Americans discovered bin Laden's whereabouts by obtaining the identity of his courier from Pakistani officials. His body was buried at sea within 24 hours of his death.

Within hours of the announcement, thousands of people gathered in front of the White House in celebration. Bin Laden's death ended a manhunt that had lasted for nearly a decade, which began as part of former U.S. president George Bush's War on Terror.

OCCUPY MOVEMENT FIGHTS FOR THE 99 PER CENT

In September, a movement set up in New York City's financial district sparked global protests. Known as Occupy Wall Street, demonstrators protested against social and economic inequality and corporate

greed, particularly in the financial sector.

The protests focused on the growing inequality between the richest one per cent of Americans and the remaining 99 per cent. It formed partially as a reaction to Republican politicians' refusal to raise income taxes for the rich to service government debt repayment.

Occupy protests spread to dozens of other American cities and several other countries, evoking similar messages. The protests generated a national discussion on inequality in America.

DEBT CRISIS PUTS EUROPE ON THE BRINK

European states struggling to repay their debt in 2011 were the sites of much social unrest and economic uncertainty, forcing political leaders in the PIGS countries — Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain — to resign.

Debt-ridden governments were forced to commit to financial austerity to receive assistance from the international community, translating to massive budget cuts and mass protests. Fears of European governments defaulting on their debt also sent international stock markets tumbling.

One of the financial crisis' most notable victims was Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who ruled the country for 17 years. Berlusconi ultimately resigned from his position on Nov. 12.

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- ANDREAS FEININGER

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STUDY OF SUPERINTELLIGENCE Dr. Kim Solez, pictured above, is teaching a course on technological singularity that's the first of its kind in the world. DAN MCKECHNIE

One-of-a-kind course examines future technology

Andrew Jeffrey
NEWS STAFF • @ANDREW_JEFFREY

With technology advancing at an exponential rate, machines could eventually surpass human intelligence, a theory explored in a unique course this term at the University of Alberta.

The graduate-level course LABMP 590: Technology and the Future of Medicine teaches students about the theory of technological singularity, and specifically focuses on how medicine around the world will change and the associated ethical dilemmas with that change. It's the first course of its kind in the world.

"It's the future of technology or what technology is going to mean in terms of our predictable future," said Kim Solez, the professor teaching the course. "That has many

aspects. It's not just practical, like 'Will there be flying cars or not?' It's also, 'What will morality be when everything is possible?'"

Solez ran the class in the fall term as a Continuous Professional Learning course — it wasn't available in the calendar but students could register to further their education. It was a dry-run that was well received because students liked the unique structure of the science course.

"Usually in science classes, it's 400 people with a lecture that gives you information and that's it," said Akshatha Raghuvier, a 21-year-old graduate student who assisted Solez with the course.

"Here, we have our own opinions, and we're invited to express them, which doesn't happen a lot in science classes. Taking this is like a science course mixed with an

arts course, all in one."

That structure is fitting due to the fact that students from all faculties and years can enroll, creating a unique dynamic, with students from various backgrounds applying their own field of study to the in-class topics.

"I think that if you want to simplify it down to its very essence, this course is about what will the future really be like."

KIM SOLEZ
PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

"It's not just gung-ho technology with people who are big on high-tech things, because that wouldn't be the real world. It's a combination

of technology skeptics and technology advocates," Solez explained.

"That makes for very good dialogue, and by the end of the course, the skeptics learn a lot about the advantages of high-tech stuff, and the high-tech guys learn about traditional values that the skeptics have."

Solez believes he's the first to teach a class like this because he has the confidence needed to create something that doesn't have any precedent set for it. But he isn't content with remaining the only professor teaching this course.

"I would like to see the kind of course that I'm putting together here maybe a thousand fold in universities all over the place," Solez said. "Get other people discussing the same things we are. That's the way to find the truth and really move

mankind forward. If we remain the only place doing this kind of course, that's a very limited thing."

Solez was also motivated to create this class to aid in order to mainstream technological singularity and make it understandable to the public. As technology continues to grow, Solez believes it's important for students to understand how it's changing and how it will affect our future.

"I think that if you want to simplify it down to its very essence, this course is about what will the future really be like," Solez said.

"It's hard to predict that. What is (the students') role in the future? Are they just passive victims of the future waiting to see what's going to happen or are they actually going to help shape the future? I think they're going to help shape it."

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Opinion

Opinion Editor

Ryan Bromsgrove

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

It's time the U of A took ownership of its problems

A NEW YEAR MEANS CHANGE — BUT SETTING RESOLUTIONS FOR yourself in pursuit of making the next year better than the one before should start with taking ownership of problems. Turning the calendar to 2012 is an opportunity to examine the University of Alberta too, and there are undoubtedly some things that need to change about this institution.

Take the sorry state of our finances. For two years, the provincial government gave the U of A a zero per cent increase to our base operating grant — the Campus Alberta grant — which is one of the institution's main sources of funding. This has meant the burden has fallen onto students and faculty to make up the gap between low funding and rising costs.

Students saw the implementation of a mandatory non-instructional fee of \$290 per year in 2010. Staff had to accept furlough days, the voluntary retirement incentive program and layoffs. Due to this, the diversity of upper level courses dropped, class sizes increased and the academic experience for undergraduates suffered.

Though the institution weathered these budget deficits through both 2009/10 and 2010/11, the cuts were not even close to being finished. Now, every faculty is being asked to cut 2.1 per cent from their budgets for the 2011/12 fiscal year. For the Faculty of Arts, whose plight has been the most publicized, this could result in layoffs. But all the faculties are essentially being asked to do more with less, which is an unreasonable expectation.

The provincial government has to take some of the responsibility here. They have not been prioritizing post-secondary education as they should be. Costs for the institution go up every year as salaries, benefits, and general utility costs increase.

Providing a zero per cent funding increase for multiple years in a row has left our institution battered. Further, their unsustainable approach to funding has made long-term planning difficult, as facing different financial situations every year leaves the U of A scrambling from problem to problem.

However, the administration also has to take ownership of this problem. They cannot ask the faculties to do the same with less. And while President Indira Samarasekera claims to be advocating for the importance of post-secondary to the province, we have yet to see results. It is the job of the Board of Governors and upper-level administrators at this university to convince the government to fund the U of A, and based on the lack of funding increases we've seen, they're failing at this job.

A lack of ownership is not only harming the U of A when it comes to funding and budget deficits. Even in relationships with neighbours, the U of A's reputation has been rocky at best. They've faced criticism in the past over South Campus expansions, and now 10 southside communities are taking the institution to court over the construction of a facility for research and production of medical isotopes.

The communities are claiming that the U of A did not follow the proper consultative process before moving forward with the facility. Provost Carl Amrhein told the *Edmonton Journal* that he was surprised about the court action, which shows that the institution is clearly still out of touch with the concerns of neighbourhood residents and isn't working nearly hard enough to improve relations. Holding a few townhall meetings obviously hasn't been enough to pacify these concerns.

And through all this discontent, those who suffer the most are the number-one stakeholder at this institution: students. Students are faced with higher fees for less service. We are asked to foot the bill for problems we have no control over.

Through all this, students are also faced with misinformation. The institution's publication, *Folio*, as well as the U of A-run Express News, never address issues such as the budget cuts to faculties. In the President's end-of-year address, she simply glosses over any of the serious issues that the university is facing internally and with their neighbours, and focuses on her advocacy efforts and the U of A's international reputation. The U of A-run blog *Colloquy* likewise serves as a space for positive announcements, with rarely a controversial post. On the other side, a blog run by perennially-outraged professor Jeremy Richards called *Whither the U of A* does present the views of staff and faculty, but too often has descended into criticizing the administration for the sake of criticizing.

Rather than wasting time and ink congratulating themselves on how great a job everyone is doing, the University of Alberta needs to admit their shortcomings and give students and faculty clear, accessible information on these issues. Maybe then we can all come together and resolve to make the U of A a better place. And fixing problems begins by owning them.

Alexandria Eldridge
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

COMING FEB 4

OCCUPY EDMONTON

THE TENTENING



RYAN BROMSGROVE

Letters to the editor

Grad support staff must keep their positions

There has been a great deal of press recently about budget cuts at the U of A. The Graduate Students' Association Board would like to weigh in on just one way in which cuts may affect graduate students in all faculties with graduate programs. We would first like to note that in the University's Comprehensive Institutional Plan, the U of A will differentially "recruit and increase graduate student enrollment" until a 1:3 ratio is reached in relation to undergraduate students. The GSA has argued in our own strategic plan that infrastructure should be in place prior to admission of this increasing number of graduate students.

That said, the GSA Board wishes to focus on one area of potential cuts that has concerned graduate students in a number of faculties: the possibility of cutting graduate program administrators or centralizing that service.

Graduate program administrators have specialized knowledge about how each graduate department runs its programs. They know how graduate students are paid (often from multiple sources), solve complex problems for graduate students daily, and run interference with a myriad administrative departments that are often not geared towards the needs of graduate students. Graduate program administrators are the face of the university for graduate students and are the first person a graduate student in trouble goes to for advice.

Graduate students have strong views about the importance of the role

of graduate program administrators in each department. It is our hope that these support staff positions will be preserved.

Roy Coulthard, Tamara Korassa, Sagar Lunawat, Hillary Sparkes and Nima Yousefi

GSA BOARD

Another successful conversion for genetics

(Re: "Your major's not as cool as mine" by Adrian Lahola-Chomiak, Dec. 7)

I want to take a moment to thank Adrian Lahola-Chomiak for his brilliant editorial calling out every major offered at the U of A save his own as "essentially bullshit."

Adrian has showed immense bravery in standing up and reminding us of some very harsh, uncomfortable truths. If it hadn't been for him, I might not have realized that Philosophy majors spend a lot of time asking "why"! Until now, I had no idea that that EAS majors studied rocks, that Psychology was related to biology, or that either of those things were bad. And what a revelation that ALES students learn agriculture!

Very few people see things as clearly as Adrian. I know I have never before heard anyone imply that English majors might have difficulty finding jobs, or that Women's Studies classes were inherently anti-male.

And how brave of him to make such statements without any real knowledge! Clearly, he has never spent a day backstage during a show, or laboured through a business course. Why

would he need to, if he is already able to describe in detail the "touchy-feely sheep" actors that stage managers work with, or the Excel and paperwork skills that business students learn? He is obviously so well acquainted with the unique challenges and opportunities that accompany each individual major offered at this school that doing any real research or talking to students taking the programs would have been a clear waste of time.

Prior to reading this article, I had been labouring under the ridiculous notion that every single degree offered at the U of A had something to offer its students, this school and our community at large. I erroneously believed that English majors and Drama majors and Women's Studies majors and Business majors and EAS majors and Psych majors were all necessary components in a thriving society. I assumed that just because I couldn't see the value in a program not my own did not mean that said program was lacking in value. Thank you, Adrian, for opening my eyes. I'm going to transfer to genetics tomorrow.

Marina Hale

ARTS IV

FROM THE WEB

GOTV good for students

(Re: "Get Out The Vote campaign an aimless waste of time" by Ryan Bromsgrove, Dec. 7)

I checked out getoutthevote.ca — I had been meaning to, so thanks for

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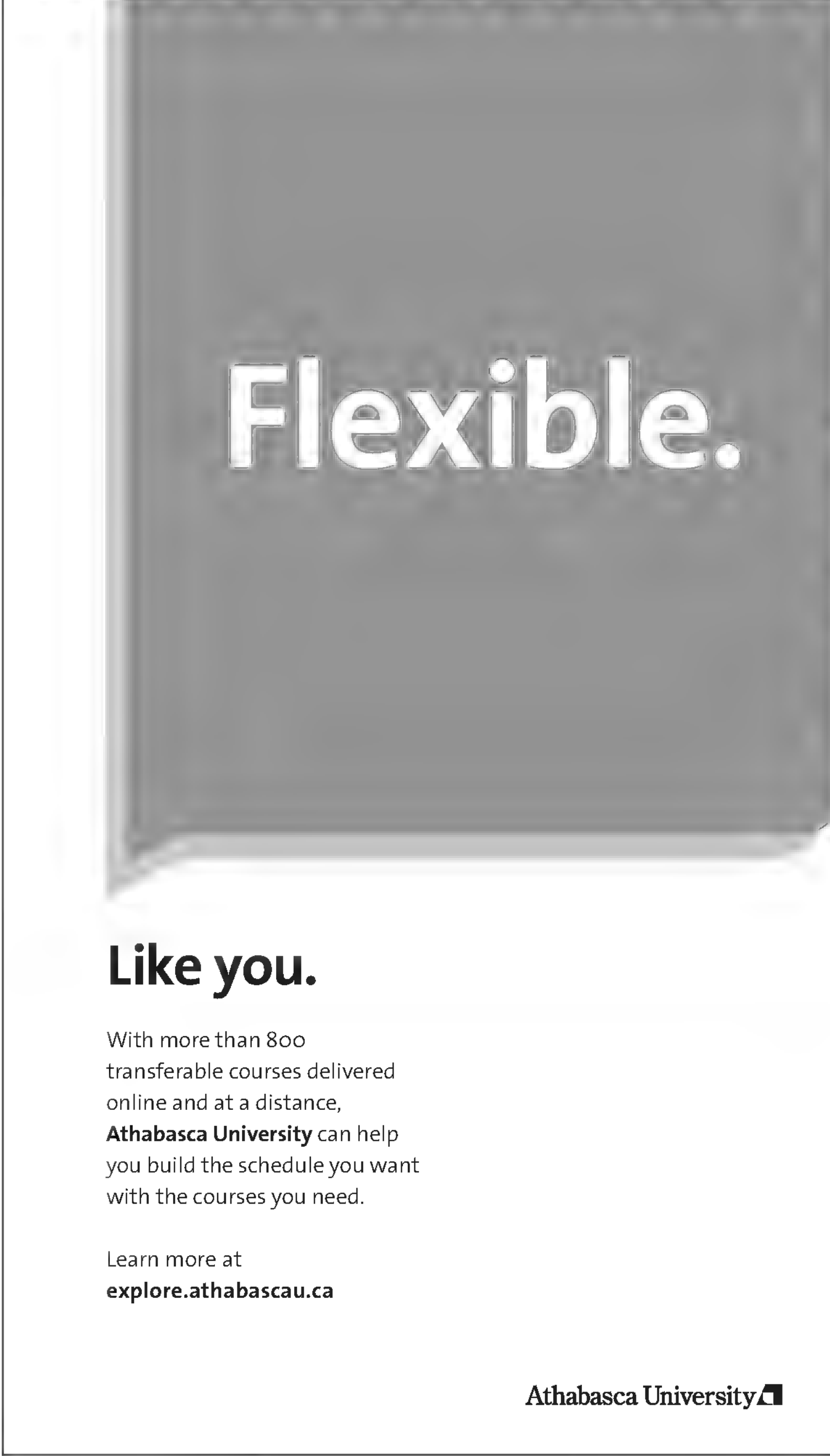
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Installment fee nothing more than a money grab



Justin Bell
MANAGING EDITOR

Have you checked your account summary on Bear Tracks lately? If you haven't, you may be surprised as to what the university is charging you.

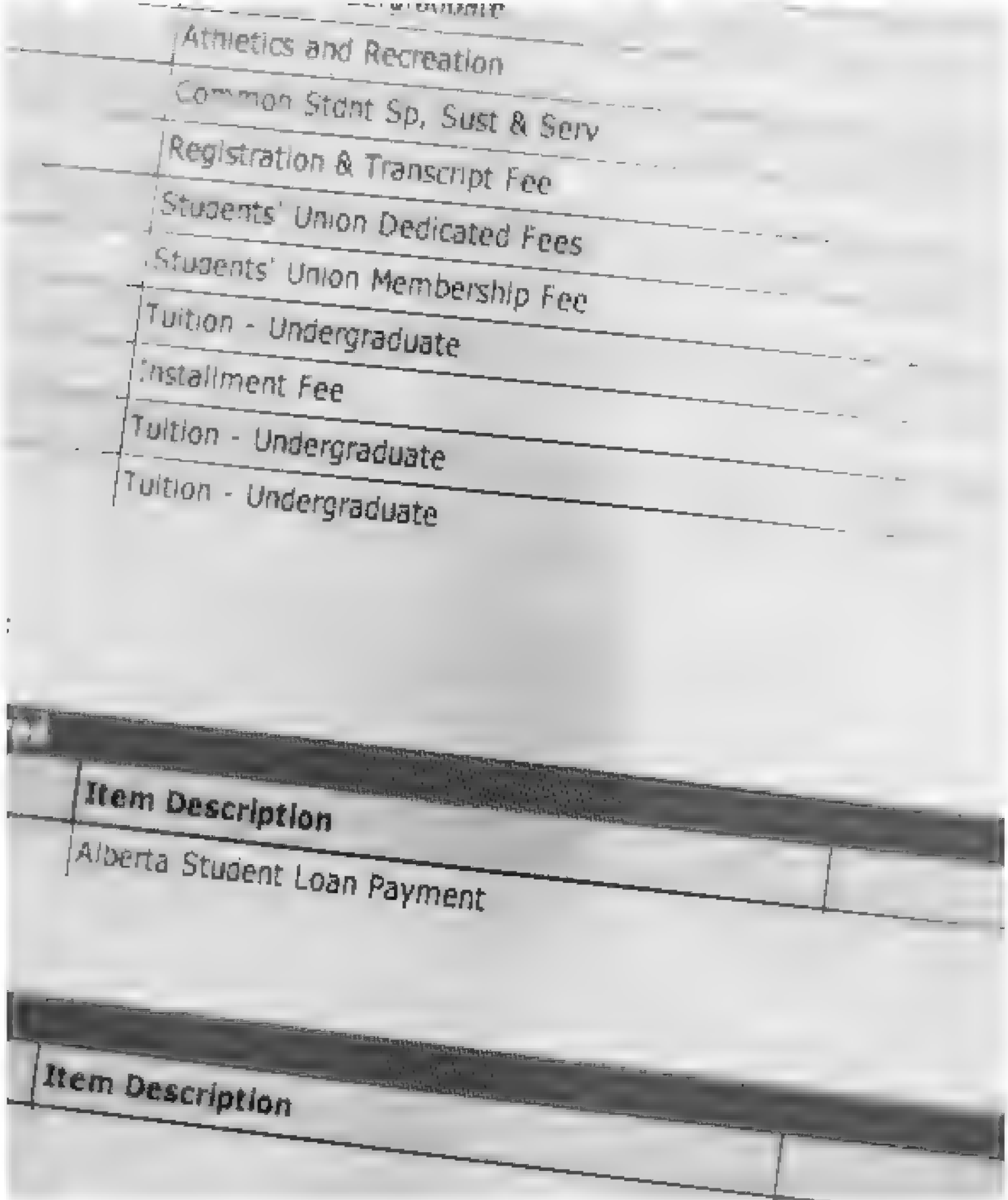
If, like me, you haven't paid your winter fees yet, there's a surprising little note right at the bottom. It's an "installment fee," a \$40 charge tacked on at the beginning of October. It is at best a relic of a payment system of the past, and at worst the sign of a university continuing to nickel and dime students to death.

The installment fee is, at its heart, a convenience fee for allowing us, the noble students of the university — the paying customers — to defer part of our annual cash output until the winter, when the courses we're paying for are actually taking place. And the cost of such convenience? We're going in circles here, but you guessed it, \$40.

The reason you may not have heard much about it in the past is because it's difficult to complain about a small fee when costs for a post-secondary education have continued to rise and there's so much already on the docket. How many people would notice an extra \$40 when they go to pay their winter tuition? And when you're doling out close to \$500 in tuition for a single course, are you going to notice the little blip that is \$40?

The university sure notices. In a letter sent from the university's Vice President (Finance & Administration) Phyllis Clark to SU President Rory Tighe, she says as many as 22,000 students will be paying the fee this year. That's an expected revenue just short of \$950,000.

The university claims the installment fee is to offset the costs of having to process multiple payments. This would make sense if that was the actual purpose, and it was charged depending on how many times you pay the university.



PAY ATTENTION Leave winter payment till winter and pay extra. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

But even that seems unlikely. You could spend all summer paying \$5 and \$10 installments towards your tuition and never see the installment fee tacked on. And then suddenly the end of September rolls around and you owe another \$40.

What Clark reveals in her letter is that at least part of it is a charge on lost interest. The university would normally be making interest off the money paid for the winter semester. For four months, your tuition would sit in an account and make money for the university. So if they can't make interest off your money, they will claw it back in the form of a fee.

On its own, the installment fee would seem like a silly holdover from an age before internet banking. It also acted as a punitive fee back when the university operated on a

single-session structure. But taken alongside other fees, such as the CoSSS fee, it speaks of an institution trying to get every last penny out of students' pockets.

Times are tough at the university. All faculties are looking at cuts into the millions in order to make ends meet, and money isn't flowing in from the government. But instead of a serious assessment of what the university needs financially, we have a multitude of fees that make a tuition statement more difficult to read than a cell phone bill.

The installment fee is the worst form of money grab from an institution obviously strapped for cash. Lost potential interest shouldn't be a valid reason to tack on an extra fee. Unfortunately, it's yet another example of a university with one hand in our pockets.

Race should be recognized, not ignored



Ryan Stephens
OPINION WRITER

We've just emerged from a century in which we've made the greatest strides towards racial equality. But though we've have acknowledged that equality brings the highest benefit to all, a simplistic view of how to deal with dishing out that equality is problematic and rampant.

When it comes to dealing with racism, many preach colourblindness: an ideology that encourages equal treatment of all humans through a claimed complete disregard of race, shunning as irrelevant other cultures, colours or ethnicities. After all, as the old cliché goes, "we are all one race: human." To make that clear, it's not a platform of complete ignorance, but rather an avoidance of race and an emphasis of individual character. While we certainly should look at the individual first, it would be a mistake to avoid cultural backgrounds entirely.

Dr. Monnica Williams, in a recent article in *Psychology Today*, argued this point by saying, "colourblindness

has helped make race into a taboo topic that polite people cannot openly discuss. And if you can't talk about it, you can't understand it, much less fix the racial problems that plague our society."

• We simply can't allow ourselves to lose sight of race and assume that discrimination will disappear with it.

The first and probably most overlooked problem with colourblindness is that one ethnic group — usually the majority group — will look at a different culture and aim to instinctually think "they're just like us." But the fallacy of this mindset is it's simply normalizing that person's particular group and saying, "we accept you," when said different culture may not agree that they're "just like you."

This becomes more problematic when one considers the history of racial oppression. Historically, the white race has created a system of oppression towards the black race. For white people to say that black people are "just like us" ignores the very important differences between cultural groups. For

example, post-secondary attendance and income of African American families are both lower than those of white Americans. With the colourblind approach focusing on the here and now, it ignores that statistics like those are the result of the economic situation of black families — often a product of this past racial oppression.

Furthermore, despite all of the advancements in non-discrimination, there are hints that the colourblind ideology is holding equality back. At this point, it should be apparent that multiculturalism is the best choice, but it must be a multiculturalism that is conscious of and influenced by cultural difference.

We simply can't allow ourselves to lose sight of race and assume that discrimination will disappear with it. We saw examples of this recently when the public began to acknowledge that test scores in American minority schools were falling. Searching for a reason, the inclination was to blame the curriculum, while the problem of a lack of minority teachers, and thus a lack of role models that these kids need, was ignored.

We can't pretend that there is no difference between us; we must be conscious of it, because seeing is better than being blind.

U.S. has no business in other states' copyright law



Ryan Bromsgrove
OPINION EDITOR

The U.S. government sure likes pushing its views about copyright on everyone else. According to a leaked draft of the U.S. proposal for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement obtained by Knowledge Ecology International, it wants partnering states to adopt their own copyright term standards — the life of the creator plus 70 years.

Our own government is considering joining this multi-pronged partnership, and is holding a public consultation on the matter. There's a lot to talk about when it comes to the TPP, with potentially higher dairy costs for Canadians being one major reservation many have, but copyright issues should be high on that list too. This is especially true given the copyright bill currently shuffling through Parliament amid criticism of having been written with the kind assistance of the U.S. and the outright assault on freedom that the Stop Online Piracy Act threatens to enact upon the American public and, indirectly, anyone else connected to the internet, in the name of battling copyright infringement.

Works produced in Canada under current law are protected until 50 years after the creator's death — as it was in the United States until 1998's Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act was passed after Disney realized they'd be losing the rights to exclusively flog the decaying corpse of Mickey Mouse. Whether it be a cartoon mouse nearing a century of existence, or other countries playing by different rules, clearly, nothing will ever be enough for the lobbying copyright holders until the ceaseless creep toward an enactment of the right to hold copyright perpetually is complete — and make no mistake, that's the end goal for many.

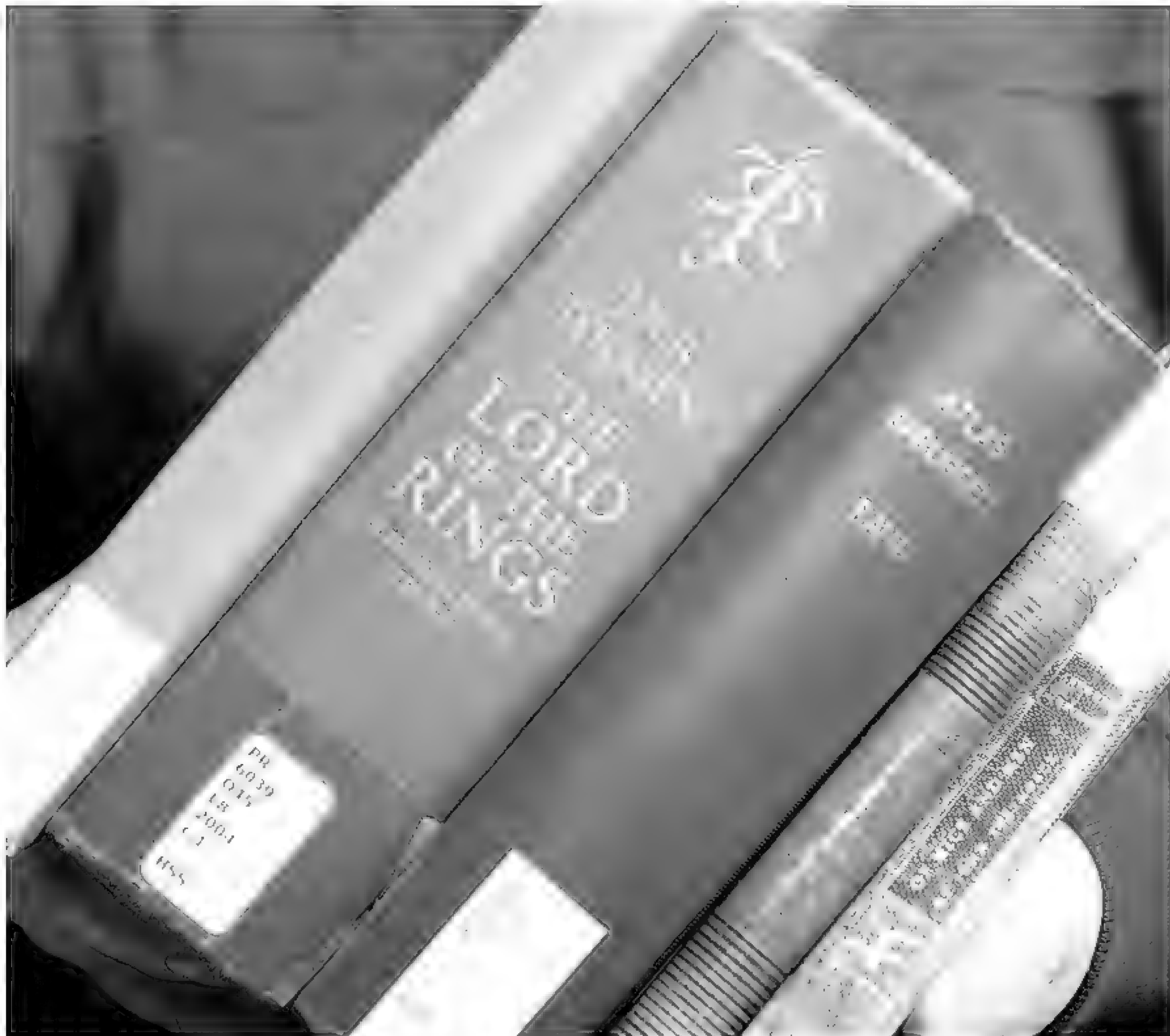
Courtesy of the U.S. congressional record, Bono's widow and

congressional successor said regarding the extension, "Sonny wanted the term of copyright protection to last forever. I am informed by staff that such a change would violate the Constitution. I invite all of you to work with me to strengthen our copyright laws in all of the ways available to us. As you know, there is also (then-Motion Picture Association of America president) Jack Valenti's proposal for term to last forever less one day. Perhaps the Committee may look at that next Congress."

Whatever the Committee may look at next time, so long as it doesn't affect the rest of the world, that's the Committee's business. But what the TPP shows is that the U.S. government will not stand idly by while copyright law elsewhere troubles those who influence it. If there's a situation where a U.S. copyright holder finds someone in a different, sovereign state about to profit from the work of a person dead for the last 50 years, action will be taken.

The U.S. should recognize that whether they outright topple regimes, secretly pressure, or throw provisions in complex trade agreements, they have no right to write the laws of other countries to benefit a few rich copyright holders.

There's nothing wrong with the idea of copyright. If someone's able to come up with an idea that can make them a decent profit they should be given exclusive rights for a limited time. Up until their death is generous, and allowing those rights to be passed on as an inheritance, at least for one or two generations is reasonable. But in the real world, where companies buy and trade rights, it's no surprise things got out of hand, and that companies in the



ALMOST THERE These works will be public domain in Canada in the next 20 years under current law. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

U.S. have an absurd 70 years to play with rights after the death of the creators. To put this in perspective, the original Copyright Act of 1790 gave the holder 14 years, with the right to extend copyright by another 14 if the owner was still alive.

Over time, the price of holding the rights to successful copyrighted memes are that they tangle themselves tight within our culture, just as calculus transformed mathematics, and Aristotle's teachings wound through philosophy. The influence of Shakespeare's work on our shared heritage is much more profound than any company should have a right to exclusively monetize. Had copyright terms at the time followed the same increasing pattern they are

now, we might find ourselves in the absurd situation where, to perform the work of a long-dead writer, you have to pay a burgeoning estate.

You can bet that as Mickey Mouse is once more inches away from its rightful position in the public domain the U.S. government will find copyright holders begging for "just another 20 years" — and again two decades after that. They can do what they want, but in the meantime the U.S. should recognize that whether they outright topple regimes, secretly pressure, or throw provisions in complex trade agreements, they have no right to write the laws of other countries to benefit a few rich copyright holders.

Large trade agreements like the

TPP often come with otherwise unwanted baggage in exchange for benefits a country otherwise wouldn't have, but at some point, Canada needs to take a strong stand against undue American influence in its laws.

This copyright creep is one outstanding example of how American copyright holders pretend that the world continues to owe them a debt. As far as Canada goes, we should demand this proposal be removed in the interests of retaining our own adequate copyright term as a condition of joining the TPP. Failure to do so will send us hurtling farther down into the same tiresome copyright war already waged against the American public.

Connecting Campus With Community

Spirit Week

January 16-19

Check out these great events on campus during the week!

Monday

KICK OFF CONCERT

NOON - 1PM
SUBSTAGE

Enjoy live entertainment and more as we celebrate the start of Spirit Week at the U of A! Prizes will be handed out!

Thursday

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY!

DOORS AT 6PM
DEWEYS

Join DJ David McBean, SU President Rory Tighe, and Dean of Students Frank Robinson as we celebrate community spirit at the U of A! Bring your friends, meet new people, and enter for your chance to win a new iPad before the evening ends. Drink vouchers will be available for the first 100 people through the door.

Monday to Thursday

VOLUNTEER & CLUBS FAIR

MON - WED 9AM TO 4PM
THURSDAY 2PM TO 6PM
STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING

Visit SUB for your chance to learn about the different volunteer opportunities and student groups that are available in your community. Individuals who stop by the fair can enter for their chance to win one of our daily prize giveaways!

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su.ualberta.ca/SPIRITWEEK

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Engineering co-op program not the only legitimate option



Josh Schmalz
OPINION STAFF

I feel for all of you first-year engineers out there. Despite ENGG 130 tearing you a new asshole, you're still here. Somehow you've made it through that first semester. If you can hang on for just one more term, you will finally get to pick your preferred punishment for the next three years in the form of an engineering discipline.

I'm not here to debate the best flavour of engineering — everyone knows it's civil — but the thing they call "co-op." Is it worth it to take an extra year to finish school in order to do some work terms? What exactly do you get out of this fancy "co-op program"? Well, there is some worth, but at the same time there's nothing in it that you can't do yourself with a little work. And a little work can save you a lot of money in co-op fees.

The Faculty of Engineering has all sorts of slick promotion to convince you to choose co-op. It's easy to conclude that joining means you'll have your entire career laid out by time time you graduate, and nothing is ever uncertain in co-op. The website has stock photos of smiling people in business suits just waiting to hire you. There are promises of better jobs and better money — which lead to better hookers and better drugs, of course. But let's go through a typical job-search cycle and find out if you'll really get a better job than the traditional program scum.

First, the co-op office contacts

companies looking for student jobs and makes the job postings available online to students based on their engineering discipline and their program year. You search through the listings, and if something catches your eye you simply check the box and then your resume is automatically submitted. When the postings close, companies set up job interviews with their short-listed students and job offers typically follow for the students who do best in the interviews. It's basically a fast-tracked version of the real world.

But things can get a bit hairy. The integrity of the co-op program itself trumps the interests of individual students, so you are not allowed to negotiate with employers in terms of salary if the co-op office has posted the job. You can, however, negotiate with companies if you find the job on your own *without* co-op office assistance. The co-op office gets *really* cranky when you do this — and I've born the brunt of their anger — but they can't stop you from negotiating with companies as an individual.

Also, being a co-op student means that you've consented to allow the university to meddle with your summer employment, so you damn well better have a job by the time your work term starts. There are usually more students than there are good jobs, so things get a little competitive. You might apply to 50 or more before you actually get an offer, and if you don't get a job by the assigned deadline, you are strongly encouraged to allow the co-op office to apply to jobs on your behalf.

Obviously, many of those jobs aren't going to be your dream job, but if you get an offer you cannot directly refuse it because getting a position is part

of the program. It becomes a vicious circle of trying to avoid jobs that are not relevant to your discipline or to your interests while keeping the wrath of the co-op office at bay. The department is interested in 100 per cent student placement, so it's possible to get stuck with a handout job you don't really want. And if you don't find a job despite your — and the co-op office's — best efforts? This is a rarity, but you will be encouraged to switch back to the traditional program.

You could argue that any student job is a good job, but co-op is sold on the promise of a job relevant to your engineering discipline, and co-op jobs are no better or worse than ones you can find yourself. There're companies that insist on hiring co-op students only, but if you look for a job on your own, you will quickly find that there are many more companies out there that don't know the program even exists.

So, is co-op worth the extra time and the silly co-op fees? Sort of. You will get more useful experience out of an eight-month work term than you do out of a standard summer job, but nothing stops you from taking an eight month break as a traditional student and working during that time.

Co-op is handy when the economy is in the toilet and student jobs become hard to find, but there are always jobs out there if you look hard enough. Co-op is not going to teach you anything that you don't already know about finding a job. As always, you will find that the best jobs are the ones that aren't posted anywhere online. Finding the job you want, whether it is for the summer or a co-op term, is going to require a lot of work on your part. You can't avoid it.

#3LF

three lines free

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca, tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree

Will 2012 finally be the year of the ginger?
South Academic Building?? It used to be civ eng, if they spent my tuition money in that change imma get aggressive
Absolutely terrified for the SOPA vote later this month. I've had a bad feeling for a few years now that the "golden days" of the internet are slowly coming to an end. :(
Kent is a pervert
but it's only for ponies,
so I guess it's fine.
Ponies are the best
Like a pair of female breasts
My love is fondest
Leah is so bright
She will break the fight, make the
Koreas Unite
Falcon! Eggplant! RISE AND SHINE!
Dear attractive girl who wonders about the shy guys: you have a mouth too. Ask them! It's not 1950s!
This year for christmas Lister gave me a fungal infection! Hey thanks! I did well on my final exams! Special thanks to the girls at the place where I bought my coffee; their tacky hair ornaments and discussion of food handouts at a local church gave me the motivation I needed.)
Personal hygiene should be a prerequisite to getting into University...
Living in HUB is like paying to go to hell. And paying to have ants as roommates. Huzzah.

tim hortons in cab sucks ass.
People playing lame games and watching videos on much needed computers, please remove yourselves and make room for people who want to work.
A Campus Full of Heart has to happen. Seriously, I would see it. Yamagichi (or anybody), take my money and soul; I don't care if you use it for a hot tub, or hookers and blow.
I didn't think I was ready to like someone else; you've proven me wrong;) I only hope you feel the same way.
Hey Girl complaining about guys not talking to her: Why not woman up and go talk to some guys?
I never did need to pick up my U-Pass for the fall semester...
OMG...I've been spelling 'Libya' wrong my entire life...
To lovebirds of CMPUT114: Good luck! To everyone: take more CompSci courses! -TA
Darcy Ropchan, please don't ever change. Huge Fan
Adrian Lahola-Chomiak. What the fuck are you talking about. That is all.
Three Lines Free: Facebook status updates for attention whores
Dear boys with mullets: Get a haircut. I can't tell if you're hot because your ridiculous hair is distracting me. Thank you.
The Gateway reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission it deems overtly sexist, racist so otherwise hateful in nature.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Call for Consultation

By the Dean Selection Committee, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

A Dean Selection Committee, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, has been established in accordance with University regulations and is now in search of a new Dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

At this point, the Selection Committee is calling for opinion on the leadership needs of the Faculty in the years ahead and on any other key issues. Individuals are urged to contact members of the Committee, or write to me as Chair, to express their views on priorities of the Faculty, current issues, and the future direction of the Faculty. All feedback may be shared with the Selection Committee. In order to facilitate the Committee's work, please submit your comments by Wednesday, February 1, 2012.

In addition, individuals who wish to stand as a candidate are invited to apply. Individuals may also nominate others who they feel would be suitable candidates.

The selection of a Dean is vital to the success of the Faculty. I would therefore ask all interested persons, who have some stake in the outcome of this process, to take the time, even at this busy point in the academic year, to give some thought to the future of this Faculty. Your views are important to us. Thank you for your assistance.

Please forward your comments to the address below or to any member of the Dean Selection Committee (contact information at left).

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COMIC BOOK CHARACTER STUDY

Iron Man

Pros: Brilliant industrialist and technocrat. Suit of powered armour enabling flight and advanced weaponry.

Cons: He reeeeaally likes his booze.

gateway comics

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COMICS MEETINGS ARE MONDAYS AT 5 P.M. IN 3-04 SUB



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

Walkway doesn't signal the end of Jasper National Park



Ryan Bromsgrove
OPINION EDITOR

Holy crap, Jasper National Park is about to be sold to America! Well not quite, but you'd be excused if you get a little carried away after reading the shrill claims made on activist website, Avaaz.org. I had no idea Jasper National Park was on the brink of destruction. But then I read the description dated Jan. 5, reading, "In days, the Harper Government could privatise a section of Jasper National Park and let an American-owned company blast a 300m metal walkway into our World Heritage mountains."

That's essentially all the information given, and it's all the information most people need in order to sign an online petition. But cynical, pedantic old me needed a little more convincing than that.

And so I took to the internet, intent to find out if the most vaguely-worded crisis I'd ever heard of was really about to erupt in a storm of American flags being painted all over our sovereign mountain range. The first challenge here was actually finding out what the hell was going on.

Brewster Travel Canada, which already operates several services in the park, intends to lease land from the government — which means that in

addition to apparently sucking money out of you if you want to access their service, they're giving money to Canada and intend to profit off the difference if their product is good enough, which is sort of how business works.

And that product is going to be a walkway which would jut out from the side of a mountain overlooking the Colombia ice fields. Yes, they would charge you to walk on the walkway — and yes, though the company's offices are all situated in Canada, it is in turn owned by the American company, Viad.

First of all, if you're against the right of a company to lease land in a national park, I sure hope you've never given any of your money to any privately-owned business in the park. If you're fine with that, but still hate America, then you'd better have only visited entirely Canadian-owned businesses between rounds of skiing and barbecue.

And speaking of skiing, if you're against the project because it would be an eyesore, ruining the natural beauty of the mountains, then where the hell was your online petition when they built all those ski lifts? And that gigantic Fairmont Hotel at Lake Louise?

People were fine with those because they allow them to enjoy the Rocky Mountains in ways that would otherwise make it very difficult. Sure, we could demand that people sleep only in tents no matter the weather and temperature. And we

could demand that if they want to go down a mountain really fast, they'd better be prepared to climb back up for another round.

We could also demand that if people want to get from Edmonton to Jasper in the first place, they can let their car rust and use their own two damned feet to make the lengthy journey.

But not everyone is willing to make that sort of sacrifice to maximize their enjoyment of our national parks. And the horrible truth that those signing this worthless petition are going to have to accept is that those people get a say as to what to do with the park too. And in this case, that say will be expressed depending on whether or not whatever entry fee Brewster ends up charging is worth taking a stroll down the walkway.

If it turns out those people don't want it enough, they'll be forced to shut it down and cede the lease. Yes, there are issues here as to who would then own the walkway and whether it would be dismantled, and so if there's to be an online petition around this walkway, it should urge that the company must remove the walkway on its own dime if and when it ceases operations.

But if Brewster is able to turn a profit, then I'd certainly like to know what gives anyone the right to deny their customers — the likely majority of which will be fellow Canadians with exactly the same ownership of the park — the chance to experience the mountains in a new way.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

reminding me, Ryan! Maybe we're looking at a different site, because all I see is an informative website encouraging students across Alberta to exercise their right to vote if they're eligible. Oh look, it also allows me to pledge to vote in the upcoming election and see where my riding is — they will even send me a reminder to vote! That's way more than the Elections Alberta website does. That, and it's a lovely shade of pink.

Kidding aside, the provincial election has yet to be formally announced, so I wouldn't be surprised if there is still more to come from the GOTV campaign. However, why should the GOTV campaign and website tell me what issues I should care about anyway? I know what issues are most important to me, and most students do as well, at least to some extent within their own experience and values. What they may not know is the power they have with their vote, and how they can be vehicles of change in an unchanged landscape. Some may not know that they can vote. This voter education and encouragement

is the core principle of the GOTV campaign and website.

As for the student vote being "invented to serve the whims of student politicians," I have to disagree, if only because I consider myself a member of that group and wish to be heard from that perspective. It's rather rash to assume that we cannot belong to more than one voter subgroup at a time. I am an adult and a student, but I'm also a woman, a health care user, a feminist, a scientist, an environmentalist — I wear a lot of hats when I go out and vote. We all do. Four out of five major parties in Alberta have varying degrees of post-secondary education policies available on their websites, so obviously it's important enough for most of them to consider. As students, we have the potential to improve our visibility and leverage as an identifiable group during election campaigns, but we need to have the numbers to back us up.

Finally, the term "online petition" is used in the final jab against this initiative, so it should be noted that this isn't a petition site. At the GOTV

website, you can pledge that you'll vote, but there is no petition regarding voting. Petitions try to encourage change that ends at a click of a button. A pledge is a promise made by an individual that they will personally take action. In this case, it's just by promising to vote. In theory, this is not a huge promise, but it seems to be an issue in Canadian politics and is the first step in becoming an engaged citizen.

Kim Ferguson
VIA INTERNET

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number to be considered for publication.

HEALTH SCIENCES COUNCIL

Health Sciences Council
Speaker Series

WHY THE FUTURE BELONGS TO ECHA

In celebration of the official opening of the
EDMONTON CLINIC HEALTH ACADEMY

Dr. Brian Goldman
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Edmonton Clinic Health Academy

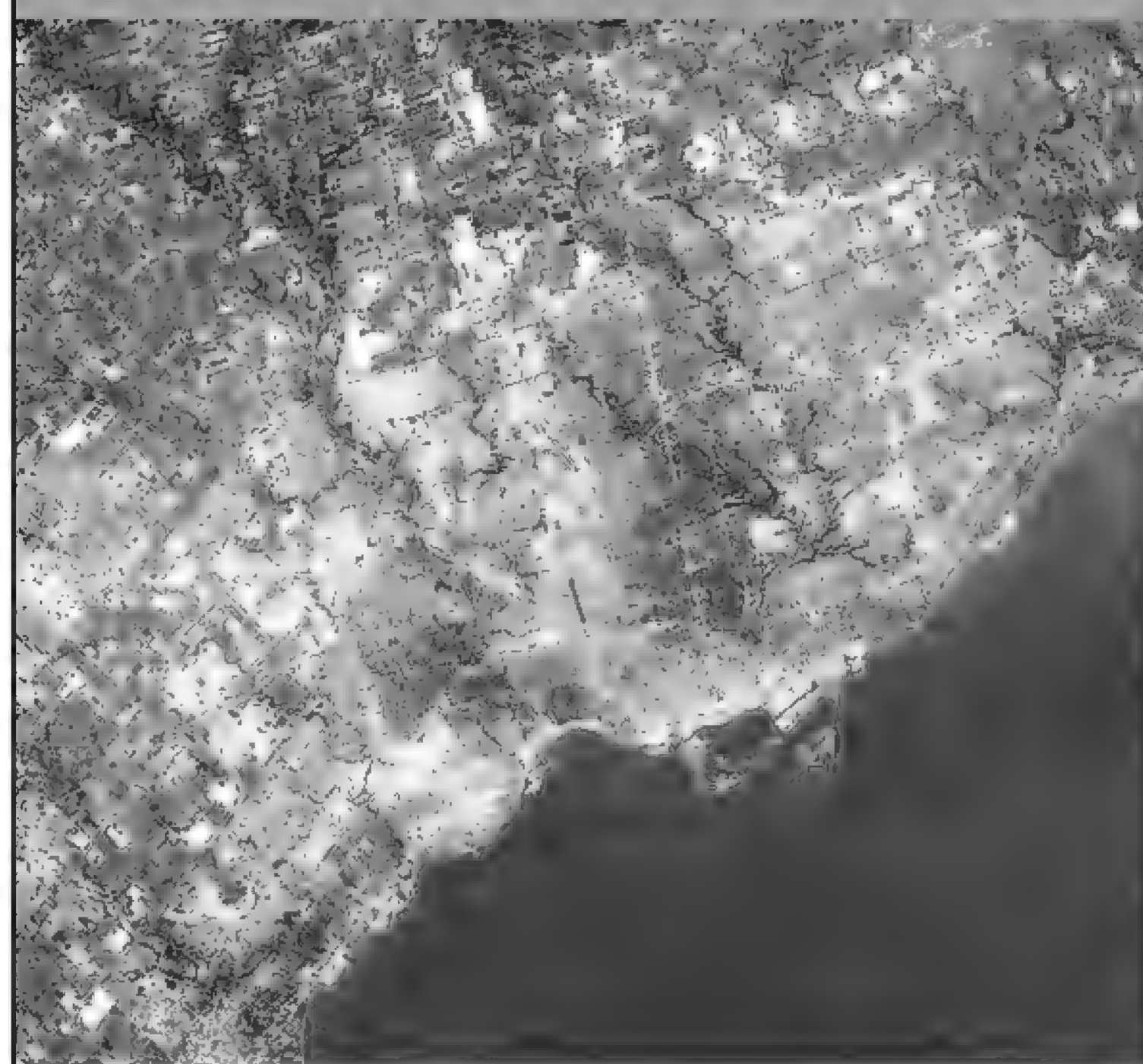
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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
HEALTH SCIENCES COUNCIL

ASS OF THE WEEK?



Toronto

Over the last year, residents of Toronto pocket-dialed 911 107,000 times, which lead to a new public service announcement urging "Lock it before you pocket." That sounds pretty excessive, but does it reach the lofty heights of assy?

gateway
opinion

MEETINGS WEDNESDAY AT 5 IN 3-04 SUB

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA

Arts & Culture

Arts & Culture Editor

Madeline Smith

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Volunteer

A&C meetings Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB.

social intercourse

EDITED BY Alana Willerton

Tour of *I'm No Superman: The Comic Collection of Gilbert Bouchard*

Presented by the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library
Curated by Andy Grabia
Saturday, Jan. 14 at 2 p.m.
University of Alberta Rutherford Library
Free

Comic books aren't just for kids anymore — they have universal appeal as not only a credible method of storytelling, but a unique art form. This idea is key in the U of A's current exhibit of the comic book collection of the late Gilbert Bouchard, a well-known local arts writer and artist who passed away in 2009. Andy Grabia, the community relations web development manager at the U of A, takes on the role of curator as he leads the tour of the exhibit, which features 150 of the thousands of comic books and graphic novels left behind by Bouchard. The tour will also feature speakers Jeff Papineau, a Bruce Peel library technician who will discuss the library's involvement with the exhibit, and Suzette Chan and Jay Bardyla, who will discuss Bouchard's life and the role comic books continue to play in a modern setting.

Pollination Proposition

Created by Nicole Rayburn
Runs until Saturday, Feb. 11
Opening reception on Friday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.
in the ProjEx Room
Latitude 53 (10248 106 St.)
Free

The line between humans, insects and plants is getting blurry in Latitude 53's latest exhibit, Pollination Proposition. Through video recordings, artist Nicole Rayburn attempts to create an interesting solution to agricultural issues caused by the diminishing numbers of the honeybee population. Wearing a long prosthetic nose that would envy Pinocchio's, Rayburn essentially takes on the role of the honeybees as she films her efforts to pollinate orchid flowers using the nose. The absurdly humorous demonstration by Rayburn challenges the way we see nature through her art with an attention-grabbing concept.

Conversation with the Artist: Dara Humniski

Curated by Catherine Crowston
Thursday, Jan. 12 at 6 p.m.
Art Gallery of Alberta
(2 Sir Winston Churchill Square)
\$8 admission

If you've made a trip down to the Art Gallery of Alberta recently, you may have come across the work of local Alberta artist Dara Humniski. MASS, her first major instalment, is a beautiful display of Humniski's artistic ability, with two large murals of different cloud formations hand-drawn directly onto the walls of the AGA's Manning Hall. At Conversation with the Artist, the public will be given the chance to participate in an informal discussion with Humniski as she describes the thought process behind her art and her journey to the AGA, beginning in the summer of 2011 when she won the opportunity to showcase MASS through a province-wide competition. MASS is the first in a series of new commissions that will be created specifically for Manning Hall over the next few years by various Alberta artists.



Pushing buttons with a purpose at Edmonton's Canoe Theatre Festival

THEATRE PREVIEW

The Canoe Theatre Festival

WHEN > Runs Tuesday, Jan. 17 Sunday, Jan. 22
WHERE > Timms Centre for the Arts
(87 Avenue and 112 Street)
HOW MUCH > \$18-20 at workshopwest.org

Andrew Jeffery

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @ANDREW_JEFFREY

Theatre can be a haven for exposing otherwise unspeakable themes — a place where alternative perspectives and stifled voices emerge onstage. Edmonton's Canoe Theatre Festival takes that task to heart, showcasing "theatre that rocks the boat" with local and international shows that delve into risky subject matter.

For two shows with Edmonton roots, their inclusion in the festival isn't just about exploring taboo subject matter, but also challenging audience members with controversial but ultimately relatable stories. *Ladies Who Lynch* uses a conversation between three women at a cafe as a means to explore chauvinism, cruelty and the need for perfection, while one-man show *Homeless* recounts the true stories of people living on the street and how they ended up there. Both plays present their subject matter with raw realism, but as fitting as both shows are for the festival, neither one has the intention of simply shocking the audience.

"I think we're the poster child for (this festival)," says Garrett Spelliscy, director of *Ladies Who Lynch*. "It's the most thought-provoking play that I've been able to work on, and that's the first reaction you get — the shock value reaction. But then people keep thinking about it for weeks ... it explores incest and discusses a very warped view of plastic surgery and homosexuality. We want to give people something that surprises them, challenges their preconceived

notions of what theatre can be about, what you can actually say and talk about."

Spelliscy and *Homeless* writer Jeremy Baumung are no strangers to controversy, having unsettled audiences during previous runs of their shows. Both artists have witnessed expressions of discomfort from audience members, and sometimes even outright criticism of their work. *Ladies Who Lynch* has been accused of misogyny in the past due to its focus on chauvinism and an unflattering portrayal of the cruelty its three women characters display. But ultimately, Spelliscy says, the initial shock value serves a larger purpose in getting the show's message across.

"I think it's absolutely going to be theatre that pushes people's buttons," Spelliscy says. "But what I believe about it is that's the reaction you'll have while watching it, and then it's going to be that little brain worm that's going to eat away and you're not going to be able to stop thinking about it ... We all know a lot about misogyny, chauvinism or plastic surgery — they're very recognizable themes. So our challenge is to put a deeper meaning under it so it sticks with you."

Baumung's play is also known to push people's buttons: in the five years he's been performing *Homeless* he's seen audience members walk out within the first minute and a half. But the show still generates enough buzz to be requested for performances for all kinds of groups — everyone from human rights lawyers to church ministers. Each of the show's stories come from real people Baumung met while working at the George Spady Centre in Edmonton, an addictions and detox support facility. Baumung finds that performing the show and shedding light on the situations of people struggling with addiction resonates with audiences.

"I go to the theatre because I want to be told a really interesting story and I want to be moved. I want to feel something in my gut when I'm sitting in the audience, and I hope and I think I have been able to do that with (*Homeless*)," Baumung says. "Sometimes it's less of a positive thing for people when they see it, but I think one

way or another they're going to be moved when they see the show — whether it's for better or worse."

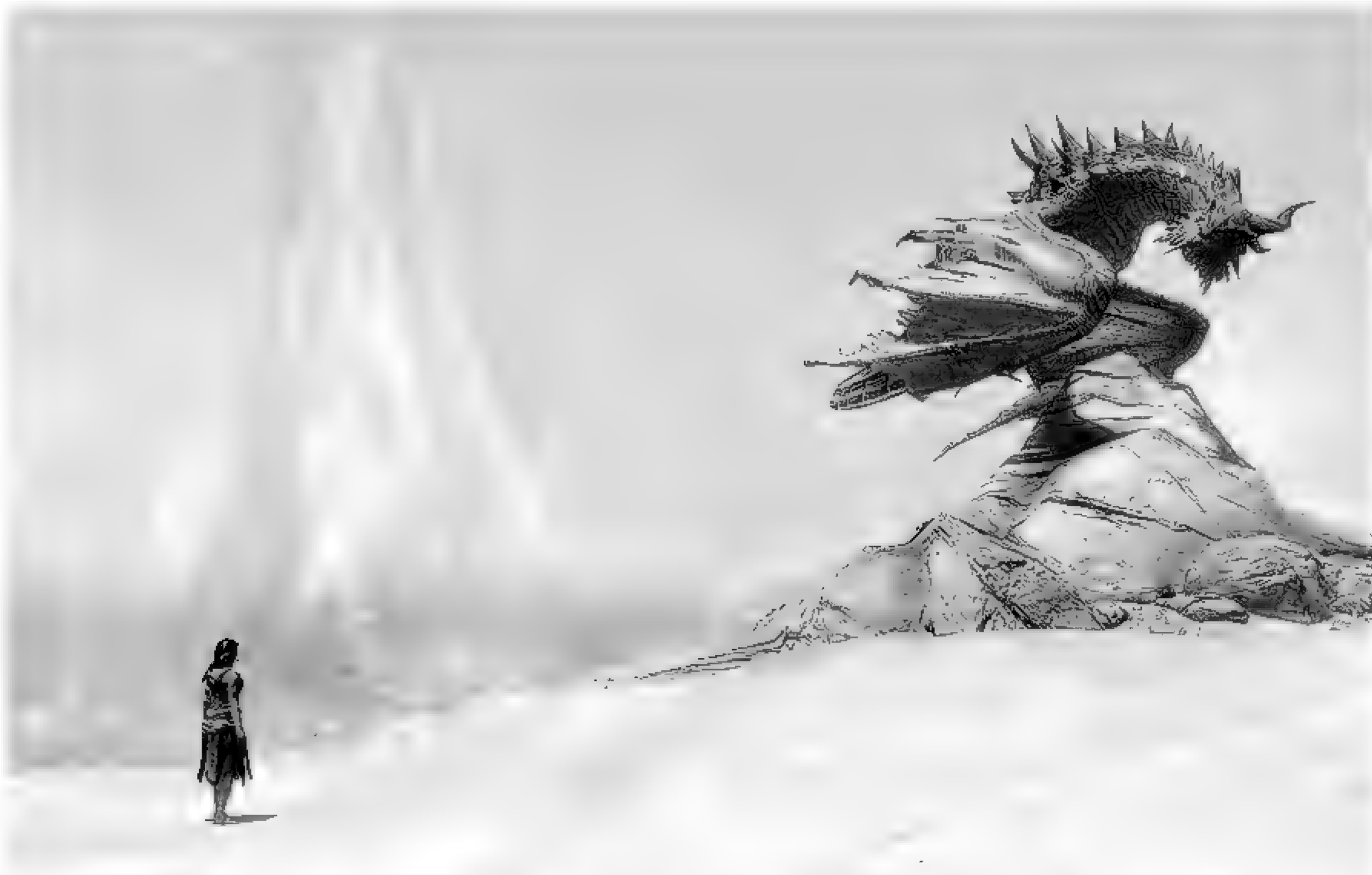
The content of the play still moves Baumung himself with the memories it evokes of the people he met at the Spady Centre. Since the play was written, he's encountered a number of those people again, and he's reminded of the lessons he learned working there every time he sees them. While homelessness is a familiar concept for most, Baumung's personal encounters with it challenge audiences to consider it more closely.

"I was sort of idealistic before I worked (at the Spady Centre) — thinking that anybody can change, you just have to tie up your boot straps, put on your overalls and put your nose to the grindstone," Baumung says. "But some people can't change. That's not necessarily my job to make that person change. The people that do change, if they're going to last and they're going to have any sort of progress with their rehabilitation, they've made the choice to change for themselves."

The way Baumung tells his story has evolved as he's matured, and he admits that he feels less comfortable including swearing and harsh language in his show as he grows older. *Ladies Who Lynch*, on the other hand, still unabashedly includes all the mature content it's known for, while the focus remains on honest storytelling and frank character development. It's this concentration on truth and realism that ultimately make both shows perfect embodiments of the Canoe Theatre Festival's mandate.

"The play all happens in one act... we have to believably go there with the characters. We have to see them go to that too-far-gone place in front of us," Spelliscy says of *Ladies Who Lynch*.

"The big reaction from the last production was, 'Holy crap, you went totally naked' or 'The sexual content in that monologue was so shocking,'" he adds. "Now we're not just throwing that at people after intermission. We're watching the characters go there from a more realistic and more honest place."



365 days of diversion: the world of video games in 2011



Jordan Ching
A&C COMMENTARY

With 2011 behind us, it's time to reflect on the year's best video game distractions and obsessions. Gateway online editor and resident gamer extraordinaire Jordan Ching distributes his very own highly prestigious awards to the titles of the past 12 months.

Most creative use of expletives: *Bulletstorm*

For anyone who played *Bulletstorm*, you know exactly what I'm talking about. This frantic and foul-mouthed game that brought us the word "dick-tits" had great combat coupled with an interesting style-based point system, rewarding the skillful and creative with the ability to purchase ever more gruesome implements of death and destruction.

The story may have been totally phoned in and the characters were largely uninteresting, one-note archetypes, but the gameplay was still solid, with an innovative multiplayer option that required players to co-operate to progress. Plus, where else would you hear the words "fungal rimjob" used in the same sentence?

Best story delivery: *Portal 2*

Even before its release, it was a foregone conclusion that *Portal 2* would be an excellent game. Valve is a company known for understanding what players want, even if the players themselves don't know it yet. After setting the bar extremely high with the original *Portal*, the backstory of Aperture Laboratories needed to be filled in, and Valve told the story beautifully.

Forgoing the traditional exposition dump, the middle four or so hours of the game consist of a long romp through the bowels of Aperture Science's history. The fantastic narration from J.K. Simmons as Aperture Science founder Cave Johnson conveys the tone of the lab in each era, while the forgotten layers of the facility literally lay out the history of Aperture in front of the player. Along with the fantastic platforming and a highly challenging co-op mode, *Portal 2* was one of 2011's best offerings.

Most useful game: *Rocksmith*

Many a guitar sits forgotten in a closet or corner, having proven too difficult for its owner to master. *Rocksmith* hopes to change this. In the beginning, the game has you plucking only a few notes to give you a chance to get your feet under you. Once you start doing well enough, the difficulty level steps up to keep you challenged.

Having played it for a few hours, I may not be the next rock legend, but it feels like the game has real educational potential. Bundled with a varied set of tunes to strum along to and a substantial number of other songs available for download, there's a lot to recommend *Rocksmith* — the least of which being that I can finally use my guitar as something other than a \$200 paperweight. If you've got a guitar and want to know how to use it, don't pass this one up.

Most cathartic value: *Driver: San Francisco*

Picture a scenario where you can, at will, possess the hapless driver of a minivan and proceed to ramp over a car transporter, drift madly through busy intersections and get involved in a high speed police chase. All the while, your passenger, unaware of what's happening, wonders aloud why their mom seems to have gone batshit insane and can suddenly do things with a Dodge Caravan that would make Jason Statham jealous.

That pretty much sums up *Driver: San Francisco*. Manufactured from pure cheese, the tone of the game always feels light, serving as a background for various ridiculous scenarios in which you get to drive around the streets of San Francisco at speeds usually reserved for stock car racing. The gameplay is set up perfectly to allow this, with even the most uninitiated driver able to learn how to pull off sweet jumps and amazing drifts.

The shift mechanic, which allows you to possess the driver of any vehicle, is also smooth and used in innovative ways, allowing you to drive your car while you sit in a different vehicle. Backed by an awesome soundtrack and a wide selection of detailed vehicles, *Driver: San Francisco* will have you consistently grinning like a crazy person.

Most forgettable game (that shouldn't really be forgettable): *Dragon Age II*

Back in March, I gave a positive review to *Dragon Age II*. But it was only a few minutes ago when I remembered it, spotting it collecting dust on my shelf. While I still maintain that *Dragon Age II* was very finely crafted, with many marked improvements over its predecessor, there's very little about it that was memorable.

The series' first instalment, *Dragon Age: Origins* was at a disadvantage with a silent protagonist, but compensated with far more vibrant supporting characters. None of the companions from the sequel, save for Varric, were nearly as interesting, leaving new protagonist Hawke to pick up the slack. But the need to make Hawke malleable enough to reflect the player's choices in the game undermines any concrete definition the character might have had. Unfortunately for *Dragon Age II*, this means that it's going to be remembered only by its association to the more memorable *Origins*.

Game of the year: *Skyrim*

With the level of disdain I held for Bethesda Game Studios' *Elder Scrolls* series after attempting fourth installment *Oblivion*, I wasn't sure exactly what I expected to be different about *Skyrim*. But as it turns out, everything I didn't like about *Oblivion* had been changed. Well played, Bethesda. Well played.

Choosing *Skyrim* as my game of the year may not rock the world of video game journalism, but that's all the validation I need to bestow it this prestigious recognition. The core gameplay is excellent and gives the player a wide choice of tactics. The leveling system can only be described as elegant, and the top-notch story lets the player feel like an integral piece of a larger puzzle. To top it all off, the visuals are fantastic and the sweeping landscapes are nothing short of impressive.

While the game is fairly buggy, it's a small price to pay for such a complete experience. Bethesda has proven itself capable of fixing most of the big stuff, such as dead people showing up to the player's wedding — definitely an awkward glitch. Things only get better for those playing on PC, since the Creation Kit will be dropping early this year, giving *Skyrim*'s already sizeable modding community the keys to the game, so to speak. Taken all together, *The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim* undoubtedly deserves to be game of the year.

fashion streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY **Julianne Damer**

Megan Egler

ALES IV



GATEWAY: Describe what you're wearing.

MEGAN: I'm wearing a vintage parka from Decadence that I just picked up. My scarf is seven years old and I got it in Ireland. I got my sweater at Value Village for \$3. The jeans are from Glam Slam.

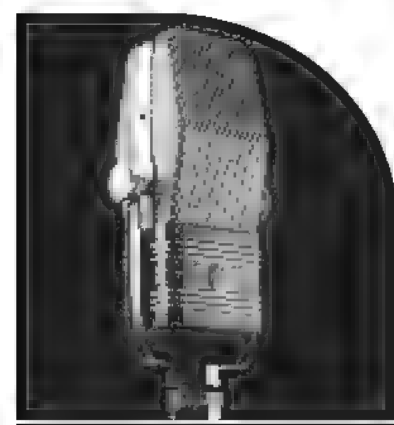
GATEWAY: What's your favourite thing you have on?

MEGAN: I'm pretty fond of the jacket, and the sweater was a steal of a deal.



Check out thegatewayonline.ca/fashionstreeters for more photos.

2011's biggest entertainment raves and regrets



Arts & Culture Staff GROUP COMMENTARY

Another year of pop culture highlights and horrors is over, and the experts from *The Gateway's* staff are ready to run down all things 2011: from the year's greatest moments to the times we'd rather forget.

Ryan Stephens

Best: Arcade Fire's Grammy upset and ensuing mass confusion.

Last year's Grammy Awards had an unexpected finale as Arcade Fire's *The Suburbs* won Album of the Year over favourites Eminem and Lady Antebellum.

Musically, Arcade Fire falls outside the typical style that usually take the Grammys' major awards, and this win hints at the broadening tastes of the traditionally bland Grammy voters. More importantly, being the first indie group to win, they showed you don't always need a major label contract or millions in sales to win the most prestigious awards.

But even better than the indie glory was the Twitter backlash from the people who had no idea who — or what — Arcade Fire was. The "Who is Arcade Fire?" meme began shortly after the ceremony, with a common refrain of "had never even heard of them before so they must suck" or they shouldn't win simply because "they aren't Eminem." Yeah, I'd say those are good enough reasons.

Worst: Lars von Trier's nasty Nazi comments

In May, enfant terrible filmmaker Lars von Trier, no stranger to negative publicity, decided to take it a step further at the Cannes Film Festival. Claiming that he "understand(s) Hitler... and sympathize(s) with him a little bit" and that he himself is a Nazi, Trier's comments received instant scorn, earning him a quick boot from Cannes. Now sitting on their persona non grata list, he maintains that it was simply a joke gone wrong.

By now, comments like this are to be expected from the eccentric director, who sports a certain four-letter obscenity across his knuckles and who, in his last appearance at Cannes, stated matter-of-factly, "I am the best director in the world... all the others are overrated." It's no secret that the director aims to provoke through both his films and his own words.

Alas, as they say in Hollywood, all publicity is good publicity — but maybe not when you're making jokes about being a Nazi. It's tough to judge who really loses in this situation: Trier, who pushed too far in his attempts to make the industry squirm, or the festival itself, forced to banish one of its most popular and acclaimed contributors.

Peggy Jankovic

Best: Smash Mouth eats the eggs

With the Egyptian revolution, 2011 witnessed the power of social media in sparking real-world change. But it was one of the most outlandish Twitter-based stunts of the past



year that truly showed the power of the popular social network.

On June 2, Twitter user @fart (SomethingAwful blogger Jon Hendren) challenged Smash Mouth's frontman Steve Harwell to "eat like 2 dozen eggs for \$20." From there, "Smash Mouth Eat the Eggs" became a bizarre internet meme, and other Twitter users also pledged their money to the cause.

And it wasn't all just in the name of absurdity. Soon it was decided that the pledges would be donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Harwell accepted the challenge and agreed to eat the eggs if they could raise \$10,000. Naturally, the egg challenge went viral and the causes.com page brought in more than \$11,700.

On Oct. 10, Smash Mouth finally did eat the eggs — or tried to, at

least. Food Network personality Guy Fieri made the 24 eggs so spicy that the Smash Mouth singer only managed to eat about eight of them before an audience member stepped in to help.

Still, whether or not it was totally accomplished, the beautiful absurdity of the egg challenge makes it a highlight of 2011.

Worst: *New Girl*

New Girl is a new Fox sitcom with a basic premise: after a messy breakup, Jess (Zooey Deschanel) moves in with three guys. She's quirky and cute, and likes to sing at the most random times. The group's classic hijinks revolve primarily around the dudes learning to put up with her awkwardness and kooky antics.

Now, there's nothing wrong with

the push for more female-driven comedies on television. If anything, this is exactly where programming should be heading, considering the present male domination of the comedy world. But the problem is that *New Girl* isn't groundbreaking in any way. It's still centered around gendered stereotypes: she's a girl who spends all day crying and watching *Dirty Dancing*, and her roommates are guys who don't know how to express themselves emotionally.

And the worst part about this lowest-common-denominator comedy is that people are buying it. The show has consistently performed well in the ratings since its pilot. Television viewers deserve something smarter, better and less grating than the "adorkable" and bubbly Deschanel.

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Registration opens: January 20 | Cost: \$10
To register visit: www.albertaCAs.ca/BecomeaCA/UpcomingEvents.aspx

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Darcy Ropchan**Best: *Breaking Bad* gears up for its final season**

After watching *Breaking Bad* over and over, I'm pretty confident that I could be a major player in the underground meth game.

The fourth season of the drama had everything you could ever want in a TV show, solidifying its position as the best of 2011. Its gloriously gory opening provides just enough action to keep everyone hooked, and the rest of the season is a slow burn, leading up to the ultimate confrontation between meth cook Walter White and his evil, dead-eyed boss Gustavo Fring. Each episode gives emotional and sometimes terrifying glimpses into each character's mind and background, making sure the audience is emotionally invested. And by the time the finale ends, fans like me are left begging for more.

I now know what meth junkies feel like when they go through withdrawal — waiting for the fifth and final season of *Breaking Bad* to start feels the same way. I'm anxious and shaking, and all I want is just a little taste of the action to come. Until then, I'll have to settle for a slightly less satisfying DVD fix.

Worst: *House* continues to overstay its welcome

Every episode of *House* can be summed up in a few simple steps. Someone gets sick and collapses, Dr. House refuses to take the case because it's boring, but the patient begins to exhibit interesting symptoms like leopard spots and suddenly he's interested. His first treatment inevitably fails and the patient gets worse until House has an epiphany two minutes before the episode ends and cures them by administering a simple form of medicine previously overlooked by a team of highly-trained doctors.

House used to be a captivating, powerful show that put a new spin on the overused medical drama premise, but 2011 was a bad year for the series. The latter half of season seven had a nasty break-up between House and his boss Cuddy, which ultimately landed House in jail. The first half of season eight showed House dealing with prison life and trying to work his way back into the medical community.

The problem with *House* is that the show hasn't done anything new or exciting. The formula may have worked for the first few seasons, but it's gotten stale, and the show has been on a steady decline since season four. The past year shows *House* in declining health — it might be terminal.

Justin Andrade**Best: "Pumped Up Kicks" by Foster the People**

While the song was actually released in 2010, Foster the People's "Pumped Up Kicks" is 2011's anthem. Exploding into mainstream radio airplay in mid-2011, "Pumped Up Kicks" is the little indie-pop song that could. Written by lead singer Mark Foster while he was still turning out commercial jingles for an ad agency, the song is catchier than herpes, though nowhere near as unpleasant.

The lyrics detail the life of an alienated youth who fantasizes about stealing his dad's gun and shooting up his school. Juxtaposed with the upbeat, oh-so-danceable pop melody, "Pumped Up Kicks" paints a pretty accurate picture of 2011. In a year that seemed so promising with pushes for democracy across the Middle East and protests for meaningful change in North America and Europe, the year was also marked by violence in reaction to these attempts at change. It's only fitting that such a contradictory song received such critical acclaim in such a confusing year.

Worst: *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*

Last year, Michael Bay finally defeated the scourge of creativity and decent storylines in film with the release of *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*. All semblance of taste is finally gone, allowing the director to release the exact same movie for a third time and still gross more than a billion dollars in ticket sales.

Transformers: Dark of the Moon is Bay's continuation of robot battles and massive explosions with occasional pieces of a story and something similar to acting thrown in to fill the parts without robot carnage. Throw in some dialogue lacking in any real emotion and a sexy but easily replaceable actress, and you have the *Transformers* franchise.

OK, maybe I'm being overly critical of the film. Everyone knows watching a Bay film and hoping for an engaging plot makes as much sense as watching porn for the nuanced acting. But there needs to be something to hold my attention beyond yet another two-hour showcase of shiny robots and giant explosions. Hell, if I wanted mindless action I would just stay home and pop *Modern Warfare 3* into my Xbox.

Andrew Jeffrey**Best: The Muppets return**

Before 2011, it had been a dozen years since the last feature-length

Muppets film, and another five or 10 years more since the Muppets were truly relevant in pop culture. Their last movie, *Muppets in Space*, was a critical and commercial flop, and their handful of TV specials since then did nothing to restore the popularity they once enjoyed. The original *Muppet Show* attracted some of the world's biggest stars in its day. But in recent years, Jim Henson's creation seemed doomed to the depths of '80s nostalgia, only appearing in YouTube videos and the odd holiday special.

But all of that changed as the months of build-up and advertising for the release of *The Muppets* began to restore the characters' place in pop culture. Multiple fake trailers for the movie parodying other films began to emerge, and the Muppets themselves showed up on a variety of TV shows, even helping the film's human star, Jason Segel, host *Saturday Night Live*.

Once *The Muppets* was released, it didn't disappoint. Not only did the film garner great reviews, it was easily one of the most enjoyable and downright funniest movies of the year. After becoming the highest grossing Muppets film of all time, things are looking up for movies featuring Henson's creations as they to continue brighten the pop culture landscape, reminding us that life's a happy song.

Worst: AMC goes downhill

The last 10 years of television have been a golden age of sorts for dramas. We've seen plenty of shows that might be some of the best dramas television has ever produced, and at one point, the network AMC was leading the way. The original series *Mad Men* and *Breaking Bad* were two strong shows that earned critical acclaim with their meticulous storytelling and complex, engaging characters. AMC followed up on this promising start with the intelligent but short-lived *Rubicon* and the incredible pilot for *The Walking Dead*, furthering their reputation for producing high quality TV.

Unfortunately, 2011 has seen that reputation vanish, with the premieres of the frustrating critical failures *The Killing* and *Hell on Wheels*. While *The Killing* started out strong, bolstered by a talented cast and promising premise, it soon devolved into countless twists and red herrings that led nowhere, all leading up to a frustratingly anticlimactic finale that didn't answer the mystery the entire season had been built around. *Hell on Wheels*, meanwhile, couldn't even manage a good start, with shallow dialogue, heavy-handed storytelling and not a single interesting character in sight. It's unclear if this will change in 2012 as AMC's more successful shows are slated for new seasons, but it's anyone's guess whether the network will pull up its socks after the mistakes of the past year.



"So what can I do? I really beg you my lord,
To me flirting is just like a sport,
Anything fly, it's all good, let me dump it,
Please set in the trumpet."

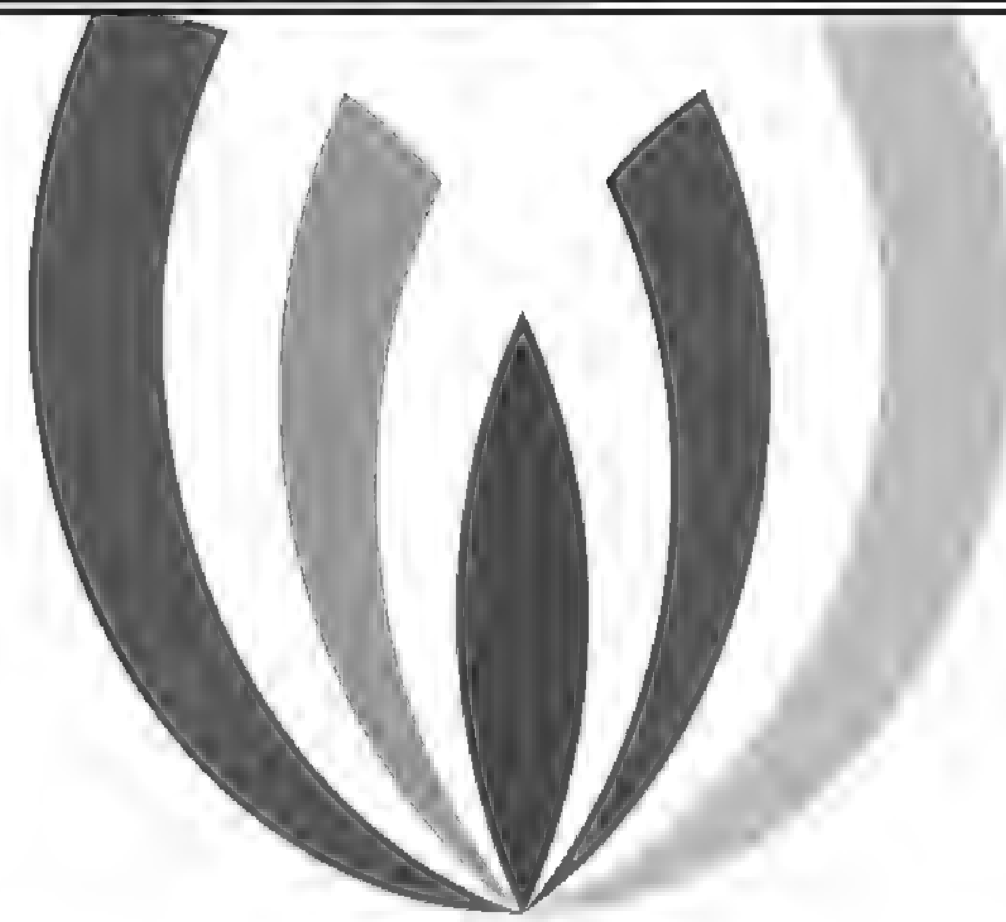
**-LOU BEGA, "MAMBO NO. 5
(A LITTLE BIT OF...)" (1999)**

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IN 3-04 SUB.**

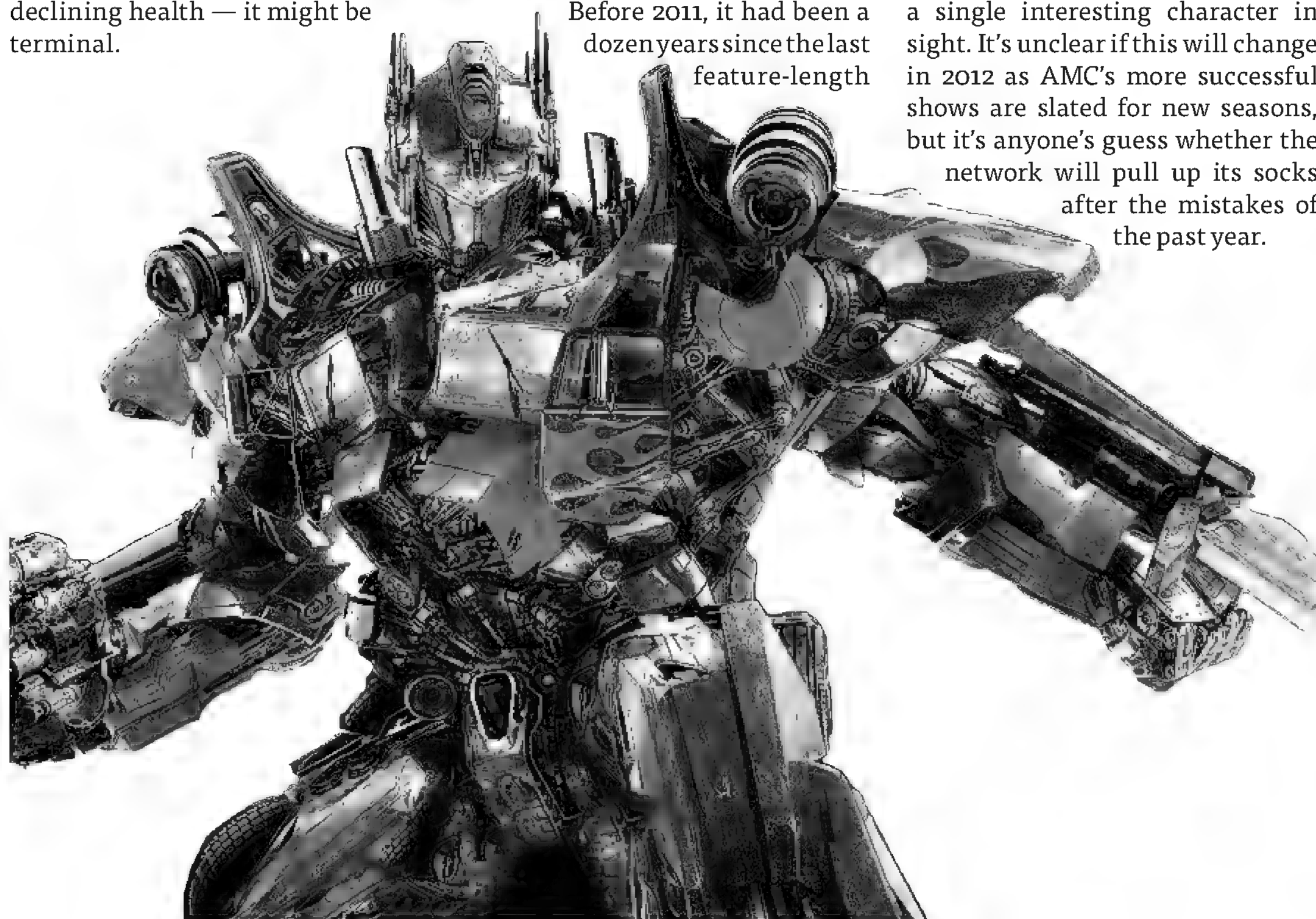
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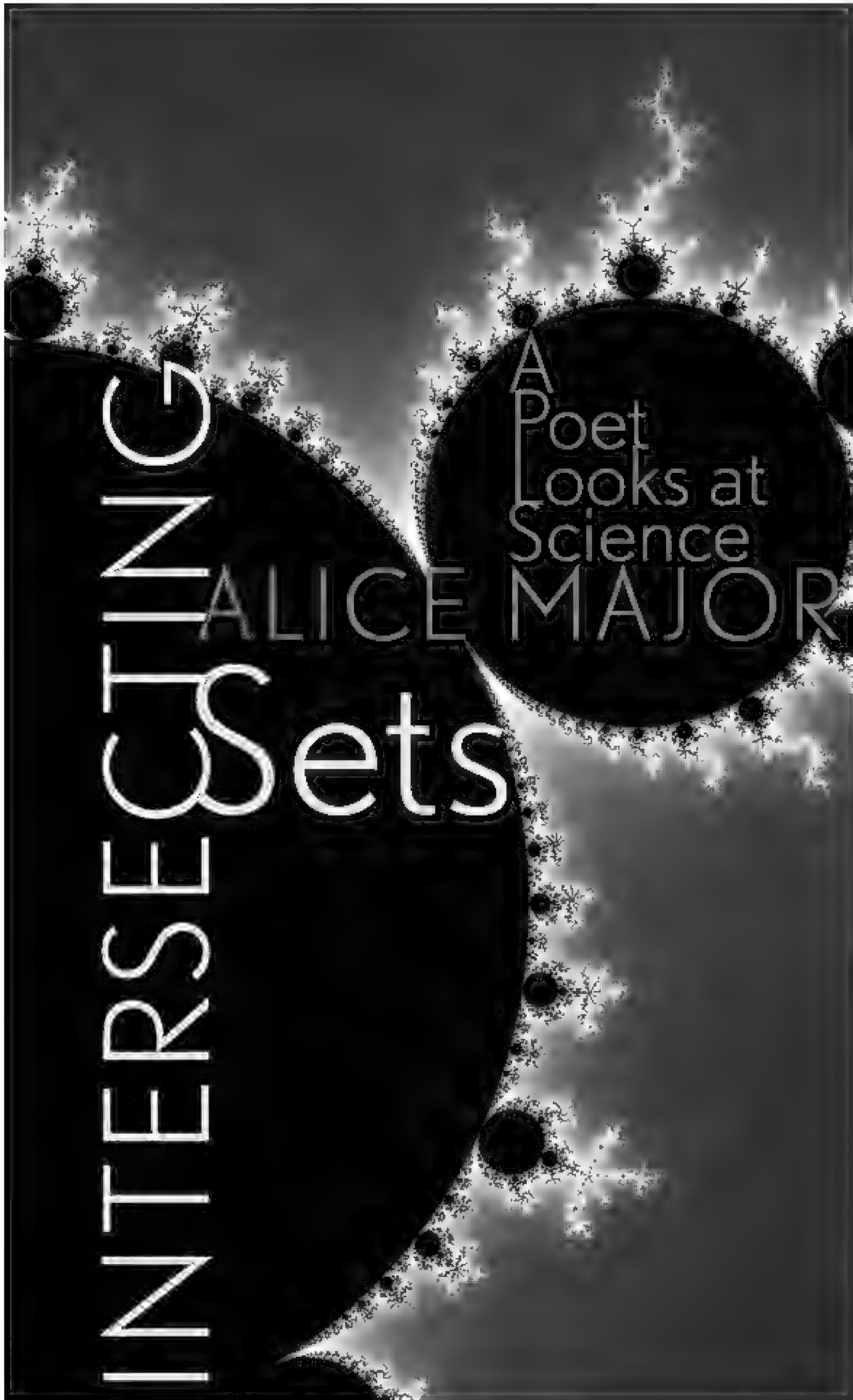


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Intersecting Sets uncovers poetry of the human brain

Former Edmonton poet laureate Alice Major examines the divisions and connections between the language of art and science



AUTHOR PROFILE

Intersecting Sets: A Poet Looks at Science

WRITTEN BY > Alice Major
PUBLISHED BY > University of Alberta Press

Cody Gretzinger
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

From a student perspective, art and science are separated by an irreconcilable chasm: arts students write essays and science students write lab reports. *Intersecting Sets: A Poet Looks at Science*, the newest book from Edmonton poet Alice Major, shatters this outdated “apples and oranges” mentality by looking at the bigger picture. The book examines the role of both scientific and artistic understanding in human creativity.

“Arts and sciences are both deeply creative processes. There is a lot of common denominator between the two, and they both come out of the human brain,” Major contends.

Intersecting Sets fleshes out the age-old “apples and oranges” argument in a non-fiction setting, demonstrating how the fruits of our minds are tied to our thought processes. Major seamlessly weaves research from various fields such as biology, psychology and physics into her informed understanding

of human nature. *Intersecting Sets* sends the reader on a journey: one that shows human nature revealed in our ability to communicate and conceptualize. But why is there such a chasm between art and science?

“One of the challenges with being human is that our very strengths are the roots of our weaknesses at the same time ... we are wired for empathy, but the flip side of that is our tendency to organize into tribes and to identify with small groups rather than large ones.”

ALICE MAJOR
AUTHOR, *INTERSECTING SETS: A POET LOOKS AT SCIENCE*

“There is so much about our brains that is structured to communicate, not just through language, but through all the other signals we are reading, and sometimes I think we complicate that communication needlessly,” says Major. “We almost have a scientific Tower of Babel, because every discipline has its own jargon, its own terminology and its own shortcuts. You need these, because you don’t want to explain everything back to the carbon atom when you are talking about science, but it can divide people.”

Major has experienced this separation firsthand, and the divisiveness of

language continues to surprise her, as she works at discovering new ways of communicating.

“I was at this conference in Banff, and the terminology that mathematicians in one field will use is different from the terminology that mathematicians in another field use,” Major says. “I thought, ‘Good grief! If they use different language how am I ever going to understand?’”

If we are to reconcile the divisions our minds create, Major says, a closer look at our own nature may be in order.

“One of the challenges with being human is that our very strengths are the roots of our weaknesses at the same time. It is absolutely amazing to me how we are wired for empathy, but the flip side of that is our tendency to organize into tribes, and to identify with small groups rather than large ones, to be able to focus that horrible quote by Stalin: ‘One death is a tragedy; one million is a statistic,’” she says. “He had the human brain pegged: we cannot think bigger than me and you, so to get over that is one of our big challenges. I think that is true with all sorts of human characteristics, because we evolved certain traits that were highly successful throughout our evolutionary history.”

Intersecting Sets deals with some complicated philosophical questions, but manages to do it in a direct, readable way. With chapters that begin with touching poems, including personal narratives and strong metaphors woven throughout, anyone standing on the cliff of the art vs. science chasm might just find a bridge with Major’s newest work.



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Hockey Pandas aim for top spot in Canada West this weekend

Pandas looking to triumph over Saskatchewan after October loss as they host the Huskies

HOCKEY PREVIEW**Pandas vs. Huskies**

Friday, Jan. 13 and Saturday, Jan. 14
Clare Drake Arena, 7 p.m.

Rebecca Medel

SPORTS EDITOR

It was almost a two-win weekend for the puck Pandas as they jumped into 2012. The team beat Calgary 4-2 at Clare Drake Arena last Friday but suffered a tight 5-4 overtime loss to the Dinos the next night in Calgary.

Head coach Howie Draper said his team was disappointed with the loss but he saw lots of positives in the play and believes the Pandas are starting to believe they could be the best team in Canada West.

"We were making better passes at better times. Defensively I felt we were pretty tight. There were some letdowns there that I think inevitably cost us the game but our power play went well.

"And for it to come down to two minutes and a little bit remaining in the game and have that carpet swept out from underneath you is kind of tough," he added about Saturday's game.

And while any loss is hard to take, Draper said that overtime losses are a bit easier because it shows the game was in the team's control.

"If it's out of your control than it's easier to lose hope. I feel like now they truly believe what they're capable of whereas in the first semester maybe that belief wasn't really there."

The rest of the semester will be tough for the Pandas, especially this weekend when they take on Canada

West's number one team, the Saskatchewan Huskies. The 12-4-0 Huskies beat the Pandas twice in October and Draper said beating them this weekend will be a critical move to advance the 8-2-6, second place Pandas to top spot.

"Saskatchewan's got a very good team. They've beat us twice, both in overtime. So I think those games could have gone either way. So I feel like if we continue to advance as a team and come out with the same kind of passion that we did against Calgary and determination and confidence, I think we can probably be successful. It's critical because they're in first place right now so if we win these two games we're in first. It's a big weekend."

Games are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Clare Drake Arena. Friday's game is free for students.

Bears football season not a complete loss

UBC player found to be ineligible for play, Thunderbirds forfeit all wins for 2011-12

Rebecca Medel

SPORTS EDITOR

The football Bears had a tough season, ending it at 0-8 on Oct. 29, but after news broke in December that UBC had been running an ineligible player, that record jumped to 2-6.

The player hasn't been named publicly to save him from embarrassment, but had played five years of junior ball before joining up with the Thunderbirds for the 2009-10 season. He was told by UBC coaching staff that he still had another three years of eligibility for CIS football. He actually only had

two, which ended after he played in the 2010-11 season. This resulted in this year's 6-2 UBC team having to forfeit all of their wins and their second place standing in Canada West for the 2011-12 season.

The Bears played the Thunderbirds on Sept. 17 and Oct. 22 with scores of 40-30 and 39-22 originally; now those scores are reset to 1-0 Bears.

Bears head coach Jeff Stead said the games now accredited to them as wins don't make much difference to the completed season.

"At the end of the day we didn't win those games, but in 20 years there's

not going to be an 0-8 record for the Bears.

"It's unfortunate for (UBC)," he added. "The CIS makes it very tough on administration to monitor this type of thing."

The Bears are already in full swing preparing for next season. Stead has been recruiting players to join the team since the season ended.

"Six kids have just moved to Edmonton to join the team, which is good because we start practice on Friday. One is from as far away as California, and we're still trying to get as many local guys in as possible."

BEARS AND PANDAS 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

**BASKETBALL**

The Bears made it to conference playoffs in 2011, losing the bronze medal game to the Trinity Western Spartans. This season the Bears reached their 450th conference win on Nov. 25 against the Spartans. After two losses last weekend, the Bears sit at 6-4 and are tied for second in CanWest with Manitoba.

The Pandas won their 10th CanWest bronze medal, beating the Fraser Valley Cascades in the 2011 playoffs. The Pandas started off the 2011-12 season at number four in CanWest, winning six straight games. They are now tied for third with Calgary and Fraser Valley at 7-3.

HOCKEY

The Bears made it to CIS nationals in Fredericton, NB, but lost their first game to St. Francis Xavier. and then lost again to McGill in game two, which ended the year for the CanWest champs. The Bears started off 2011-12 voted the number one team in the conference and won their first two games against the Regina Cougars. The Bears now sit tied at first with Saskatchewan at 13-3-2 who they play this weekend.

The Pandas were CanWest finalists in 2010-11 and went on to CIS nationals. They lost their first two games to McGill and then to Queens, but won game three against the Manitoba Bisons to give them a fifth-place finish. This fall the Pandas were able to overcome a six game losing slump — losing five of the six in shootouts and overtime — with five straight wins. They now sit in second spot at 8-2-6 behind Saskatchewan who they'll take on this weekend.

SOCCER

The Bears started off the 2011 season ranked seventh nationally and with a win over Lethbridge. Striker Brett Colvin netted his 24th career conference goal on Oct. 16, becoming the Bears' top scorer of all time. The Bears ended the season tied for third and headed to playoffs in Victoria where they beat the UBC Thunderbirds to become CanWest champs. The Bears then headed to CIS nationals, where they placed fourth.

The Pandas started off 2011 as CanWest champions from the previous season and took four straight wins. Striker Heather Lund scored her 25th conference goal on Oct. 16 against Lethbridge, which was a tie for highest career goals. The Pandas headed to playoffs and took silver in the gold medal game against the Trinity Western Spartans, but beat the Spartans to claim fifth place at CIS nationals.

VOLLEYBALL

The Bears ended the 2010-11 season with a fifth-place spot at CIS nationals after finishing fourth in CanWest playoffs, ceding the bronze to the TWU Spartans. The Bears started off the 2011-12 season with six wins and they are now sitting in third in CanWest with an 8-2 record so far this year.

The Pandas finished fourth at nationals in 2010-11 after beating the Manitoba Bisons for bronze at playoffs. This year the Pandas started off this year with four wins and are now tied for third spot in CanWest with Manitoba and Trinity Western at 7-3. The team served up its 700th win on Nov. 19.

FOOTBALL

The Bears ended the 2011 season with an 0-8 record which was recently changed to 2-6 after all of UBC's wins were forfeited. Runningback KK Sonuga had his best game on Oct. 22 rushing 146 yards for 22 carries. Rookie returner Dillon Prince ran 182 yards on six kick-off returns on Sept. 24.

FIELD HOCKEY

The Pandas headed to CIS nationals after a 4-6-2 season. The team didn't place, losing a chance at the bronze medal to the Toronto Varsity Blues. Stefanie Sloboda was named CanWest coach of the year in her second year with the Pandas, after leading the team to big improvements over 2010's 1-11-0 season.

RUGBY

The Pandas had a 3-1-0 conference season as number two in CanWest but lost the gold medal playoff match to reigning champs, the Lethbridge Pronghorns.



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Hoop Bears are ready to take on rival 'Horns in two at home

BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Bears vs. 'Horns

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 13-14
SCSC, 8 p.m.

Rebecca Medel

SPORTS EDITOR

The hoop Bears have won all four games they've played at home this season and are hoping to add two more to their home court record as they host the 5-5 University of Lethbridge Pronghorns this weekend.

The Bears started 2012 with two away losses against the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria last weekend, losing 82-71 in overtime against the Thunderbirds on Friday night and 83-77 to the Vikes on Saturday. This leaves the Bears at 6-4 and number six in CIS.

Despite the slow start to the new year, Bears head coach Greg Francis is optimistic about this coming weekend and said the home-court advantage has been terrific for all his players.

"Regular season matters because in those close games it seems like the home team wins more often," Francis said, adding that winning at home seems to be more of a psychological than a physical advantage as the energy from the crowd amps the players up. "People say it's a home court shooting advantage. I don't think it is."

"It's funny because our team has typically been better away. Younger teams are better away because I think they feel more pressure at home. But as a team gets older they have that sense of 'it's our house' and they play a little better."

This season, however, the Bears seem to be playing better at home as they've won all four home games but only two of their away games.

The team is also older than previous years, as the majority of players are in their third year or higher. Francis said that fifth-year guard Matthew Cardoza has really been a help to the team, especially defending against the T-Birds' Nathan Yu,



FILE PHOTO: MATT HIRJ

who scored 22 points and six assists for UBC on Friday.

"I don't think we scored well this weekend, but boy, did (Cardoza) make us a very good defensive team. He played great defence on Nathan Yu on Friday. (Cardoza) was a shining star. I wish we would have come out on the right side of things but sometimes as a coach you have to be able to see that even when you lose, your team is going in the right direction and certain players are giving an incredible effort and that's what matters."

When the Bears take on the 'Horns this weekend, it will be against a team that they usually beat. But Francis said they've improved over the season. Lethbridge had a 87-78 win against Fraser Valley last Saturday, a team that the Bears also beat going into the Christmas break. Fraser Valley now sits at five wins

and five losses so far.

"(Lethbridge's) coach started the same time as me and finally has in the guys that play to his style. They just had a big win against Fraser Valley, the team we just beat before Christmas. They usually don't beat Fraser Valley, so Lethbridge is getting a lot better. They're going to be a good team for us. It's a team we really respect. We know we have to compete well and play well to win."

With only 10 regular season games left, Francis said everybody is fighting for playoff spots.

"Some teams like Lethbridge and ourselves are trying to get our teams peaking for the end of the season so that will mean we'll have to find ways to win some close games," Francis said.

Games against the Pronghorns are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Saville Community Sports Centre.



GET IN THERE The Golden Bears triumphed twice as they battled the Dinos at a home and away last weekend. SEYED HOSSEIN MORTAZAVI



SAM BROOKS



YIFENG LIU

Volley Pandas defeated by Japan in exhibition tourney

VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP

Pandas vs. Tsukuba

Jan. 7, New Year's Classic
SCSC

Ravanne Lawday

SPORTS STAFF • @RAVIAZHARKO

The Pandas welcomed the visiting Tsukuba University volleyball team from Japan on Jan. 7 for the 2012 New Year's Classic. The opposing team, whose home is an area near the epicentre of the 2011 Japanese earthquake, downed the Pandas in three straight sets.

The New Year's Classic is the only non-CanWest play the Pandas will play have this season and was also attended by the Regina Cougars and Calgary Dinos. Donations were taken for relief for the earthquake that struck Japan last March.

The first set against the Pandas saw Tsukuba consistently in the lead with only brief rallying between the two teams and a close final score of 25-21. Tsukuba would also dominate in the second set with a bigger lead of 25-16. While the Pandas led most of the final set, Tsukuba came back to win in the very end with a score of 25-19.

Despite the loss, head coach Laurie Eisler was positive about the outcome.

"Playing an international team is always exciting and really challenging for us," Eisler explained. "It's usually because their playing style is so different from ours."

Although the tactics of the Japanese university team differed from the home team, Eisler feels that the Tsukuba team isn't entirely different from a challenging CanWest group.

"Any time you face a good opponent they expose good and bad things about your team and the individuals on it. It's good to see that

because at some point in the season you'll have to address all of these issues."

Eisler added that a few of these issues were addressed during preparation for the New Year's Classic.

"We had some cool training opportunities on Thursday, a game on Friday and earlier (Saturday). I noticed that the team kept improving, and we still have the rest of the season to improve."

The Pandas played and won in straight-set wins against both the Dinos on Thursday and the Cougars Saturday as part of the tournament. But Eisler said that the team is now

setting their sights on the rest of the regular season.

"We've got lots of volleyball left to play," Eisler said. "We just need to keep on preparing ourselves to do well in the rest of the season and hopefully to do well in the playoffs."

The Pandas are in Langley, BC this weekend playing the Trinity Western University Spartans for their first conference games of the new year. Both TWU and Alberta are 7-3 in CanWest standings and are two of three teams tied for third spot in CanWest, along with the 7-3 Manitoba Bisons.



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SPORTS • THURSDAYS AT 4 PM

winter 2012 meeting times

FEATURES • THURSDAYS AT 5 PM
NEWS • FRIDAYS AT 3 PM | PHOTO • FRIDAYS AT 4 PM
COMICS • MONDAYS AT 5 PM

Hoop Pandas ready for ‘Horns

BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Pandas vs. ‘Horns

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 13-14
SCSC, 6 p.m.

Rebecca Medel
SPORTS EDITOR

After suffering their first one and two points losses of the season before the regular season ended for the term in November, the basketball Pandas started off this term with a split win and loss in BC.

The Pandas lost 73-69 to the University of British Columbia last Friday, but came out on top against the University of Victoria Vikes by a score of 88-84 on Saturday. Head coach Scott Edwards said despite the loss to UBC, the team came back on Saturday full of energy. This puts the Pandas at 7-3, trailing just behind the number-one team in Canada West, the University of Regina Cougars.

“I think the team was reeling after those two one-point losses in the first term and I thought we went to Montreal and played really well in a tournament (over the break) ... (We) gave ourselves a chance on Friday night to win against UBC and had a really solid first half. We just had a really poor third quarter and it cost us the game. I know the girls were really disappointed, but when we got to Victoria and got ready for that game I think they had a new energy and they really knew we needed to get a win on the road and they gutted one out,” Edwards said.



FILE PHOTO: TODD PRLNER

As the Pandas are now halfway through the regular season schedule, Edwards said they’re looking forward to playing on home turf again. There are only six regular season games left to play at home.

“We have five weeks left to go now and we know what we’ve got to do. We’ve got a lot of difficult games coming up including a provincial rivalry game with Lethbridge.”

Lethbridge is at 2-8 after netting two wins in early November, but Edwards said he thinks the team is more talented than their record suggests.

“They’ve added some kids that give them some size this year and have a couple really good guards, so they’re going to be a difficult match for us. They always play us very well. They play with great energy and passion so we’re going to have to be very committed to our game plan this weekend and just find that

energy it takes to win two at home.”

That energy includes each player stepping up her game a bit. Edwards said he’s seen great play from point guard Jil Verhesen lately.

“She has just been playing outstanding. She gives another dimension defensively. Actually, she’s a great on-ball defender and she’s been wreaking havoc with everyone in the last five games we’ve played.”

Other players who have stood out in the first half of the season include Nicole Clarke, who is third for scoring in CanWest with an average of 17.2 points per game. The fourth-year guard is also number one for free throws with 43 and number two for three-point field goals with 13. Forward Anneka Bakker is number three for free throws with 21.

Friday and Saturday’s games are at 6 p.m. at the Saville Community Sports Centre.

U of A track stars rack up points

TRACK AND FIELD REVIEW

Bears and Pandas vs. Dinos

Jan. 8
Universiade Pavilion

Rebecca Medel
SPORTS EDITOR

The new year started off with the bang of a starter’s pistol for the Green and Gold track and field team, as the Bears and Pandas hosted the Dinos on Sunday, Jan. 8 at a Dual Meet with the University of Calgary.

Rookie Joseph Solomon said it felt good to start off the new year with a track meet after training hard for four months. Solmon competed in the 4x200 metre relay with second-year Stephen McPhee, 2010’s CIS

Rookie of the Year, second-year Mitchell Home and rookie Benjamin Williams. The team placed second with a time of 1:32.55.

Assistant coach for the Bears and Pandas squad, Glen Playfair, said he’s happy with the day’s results.

“As far as the middle distance group, we’re really happy with the way the season’s opened up for us. We’ve had some strong season openers and some of the athletes have even had their personal best so we’re really excited about the indoor season.”

Playfair named David Falk’s performance as one of those bests after he finished seventh in the 1000 metre with a time of 2:40.93. Nicole Soderberg’s strong second to Legacy Athletics’ Carline Muir in the 600 metre and Alana Soderberg and Amy McLean’s strong second and

third-place finishes in the 3000 metre were also highlights.

“We’re just kicking off but it’s fast and furious up until the weekend of Feb. 10 (Kinsmen Invitational in Regina). So we’ve really got a small window here to see dramatic improvements and get as many athletes qualified for CIS (nationals) as we can,” Playfair said.

Last year the Green and Gold sent 18 athletes to nationals which Playfair said is an above average number. The men placed third in Canada West and sixth in CIS. Their last CW win was in the 2005/06 season and CIS was in 2000/01. The women were second in Canada West 2010 and fourth in CIS but haven’t had a CW win since 1982-3 or CIS since 1984-5.

The next meet is the Golden Bear Open on Jan. 20-21 in the University Pavilion.



60 metre dash

2nd Leah Walkeden, 7.66 (Pandas)
3rd Benjamin Williams, 6.96 (Bears)

300 metre dash

1st Mitchell Home, 35.57 (Bears)

600 metre run

1st Adam Ward, 1:27.46 (Bears)
2nd Nicole Soderberg, 1:34.27 (Pandas)
3rd Maegan Ciesielski, 1:45.11 (Pandas)

1000 metre run

2nd Sarah McMaster, 3:31.13 (Pandas)
2nd Isaak Kornelsen, 2:32.55 (Bears)

3000 metre run

2nd Alana Soderberg, 10:31.26 (Pandas)
2nd Josh Bateman, 9:23.15 (Bears)
3rd Amy McLean, 10:36.51 (Pandas)

TOP THREE PERFORMANCES



60 metre hurdles

2nd Kathrun McCaffrey, 8.80 (Pandas)
3rd Courtney Wilkes, 8.81 (Pandas)

4x200 metre relay

2nd Debbie Trang, Jenny Rintoul, Leah Walkeden, Kirklin MacIse, 1:43.28 (Pandas)
2nd Benjamin Williams, Joseph Solomon, Mitchell Home, Stephen McPhee, 1:32.55 (Bears)

4x800 metre relay

1st Amy McLean, Erin Humphries, Alana Soderberg, Nicole Soderberg, 10:03:08 (Pandas)
2nd Donovan Hacking, Isaak Kornelsen, David Falk, Graeme Law, 8:34.57 (Bears)

Shot Put

3rd Chelcie Kucharchuk, 11.51m (Pandas)
3rd Smith Wright, 13.27m (Bears)

High jump

1st (tied) Isaac Tyler and Teodor Kostelnick, 1.90 m (Bears)
2nd (tied) Leanne Hildenbrandt, 1.45m (Pandas)

Pole vault

1st Lindsey Bergevin, 3.85m (Pandas)
2nd Andrew Choi, 4.22m (Bears)

Long jump

1st Leanne Hildenbrandt, 5.34m (Pandas)
1st Teodor Kostelnick, 6.99m (Bears)
2nd Adam Baptie, 6.84m (Bears)
3rd Chris Buffi, 6.31 m (Bears)

Weight throw

1st Ciera Heska-Wolf, 14.90m (Pandas)
1st Smith Wright, 15.99m (Bears)
3rd Chelcie Kucharchuk, 14.62m (Pandas)



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U of A student training for his second World Ironman race

Rebecca Medel
SPORTS EDITOR

Stefan Schreiber tries the same experiment every year and it takes him that entire year to calculate the results. He vigorously trains his body to swim, cycle and run for miles to see if he has what it takes to be an Ironman.

This year Schreiber, a PhD student at the U of A, has made it. He's one of a handful of Canadian men in his 30-34 age group heading to Hawaii in October to represent Canada in the Ironman World Championship. It's a race that requires participants to "Swim 2.4 miles! Bike 112 miles! Run 26.2 miles! Brag for the rest of your life." It was started by a few American military men in the 1970s looking for a way to challenge each other to see who was in the best shape.

"Everyone who does long distance triathlon, you always look for motivation. What your mind wants is to slow down, to stop and you always have to find motivation again to keep going."

STEFAN SCHREIBER
IRONMAN COMPETITOR

"It was fun for them. It was maybe four or five people and now it's people almost treating it as a religion," Schreiber said. "For me it's more like a personal satisfaction that I get when I've met my goal after training for a year. After the race I evaluate everything and say, 'Well you could improve here, you could improve there.' So that's when I plan my new year to address these weaknesses that I have. I don't know, maybe it's kind of the scientist in me that I always come up with a new experiment and change something there and see what comes out of it."

Schreiber got involved in triathlon racing in his early 20s while he was still living in his native Germany. After moving to Edmonton and entering the doctoral program at the U of A in forest biology in 2008,

Schreiber took recreational triathlon racing to a new level and started competing in Ironman Canada races the next year.

His hard work paid off and he raced in the Ironman World Championship in 2010, placing 102nd, but running at a time 30 minutes slower than his last Canadian race. This October will be Schreiber's second time attending the Worlds.

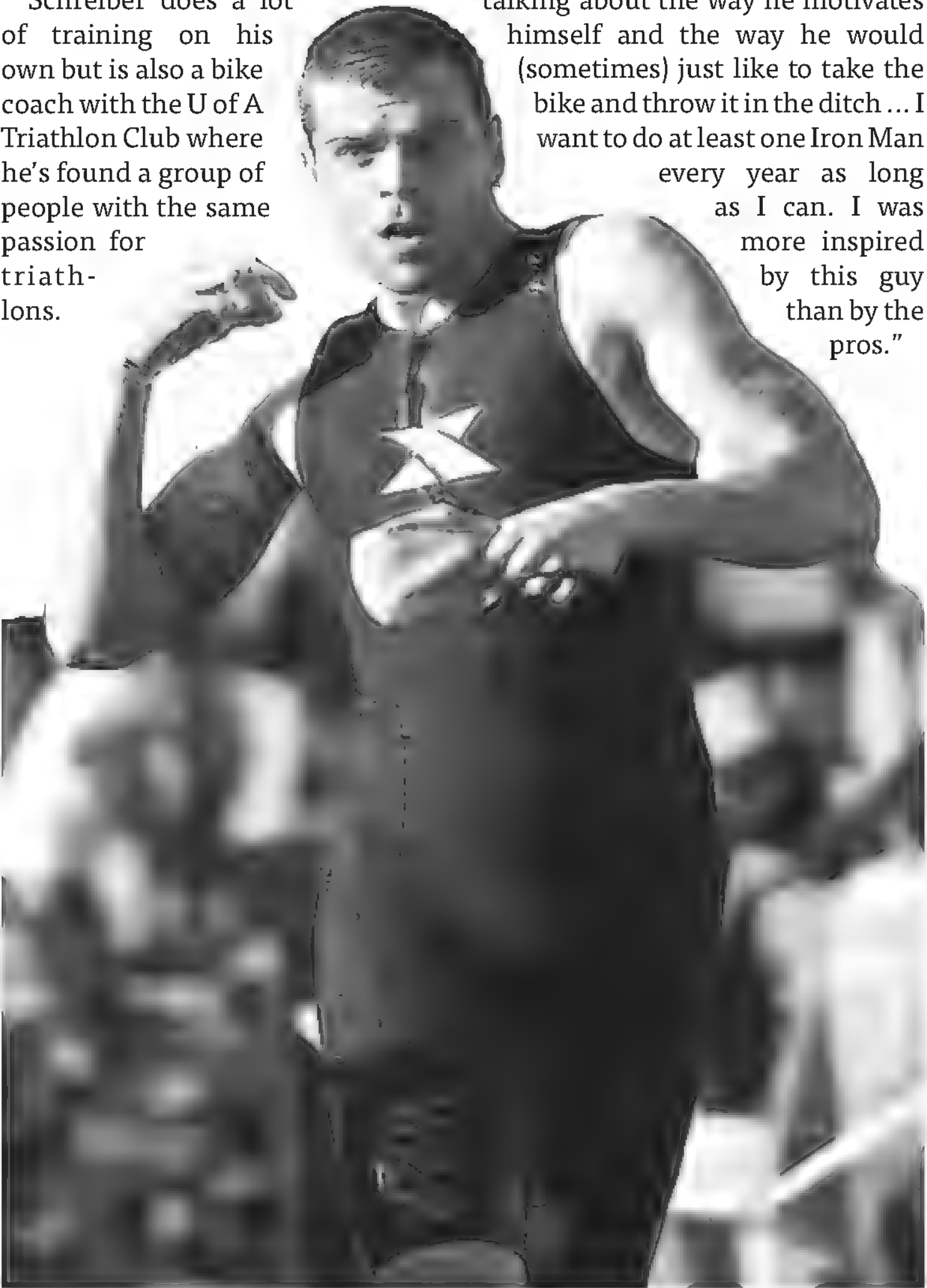
"In order to be able to do a race in Hawaii with 2,000 people, only the top in the age group can get a spot from each country," Schreiber said. "My time was also not as fast as it was in Canada when I was in Hawaii, this was also probably due to the heat there because the heat is a very big factor. It was so hot the pavement was 60C ... Right after I finished that race in Hawaii I thought I have to come back here and make a way so I can actually train properly."

Schreiber does a lot of training on his own but is also a bike coach with the U of A Triathlon Club where he's found a group of people with the same passion for triathlons.

"I try to avoid junk miles where I just train but without purpose. So every workout has a purpose. There are lots of different training philosophies but you have to find something that makes sense for you, otherwise you would not devote your time to it."

However, the cost is a big factor for competitors. Only professionals are eligible for prize money, but each participant has to pay an entry fee that keeps inching closer to \$1,000 every year. Schreiber would love to continue racing until he's as old as the 80-year-old Lew Hollander who raced alongside him last time, but realizes cost may become an issue.

"Everyone who does long distance triathlon, you always look for motivation. What your mind wants is to slow down, to stop and you always have to find motivation again to keep on going. This old guy was talking about the way he motivates himself and the way he would (sometimes) just like to take the bike and throw it in the ditch ... I want to do at least one Iron Man every year as long as I can. I was more inspired by this guy than by the pros."



sports shorts

COMPILED BY Rebecca Medel

HOCKEY BEARS DEFEAT DINOS

Two wins for the Golden Bears hockey squad last weekend against the Calgary Dinos will be great motivation for them as they head to Saskatchewan this weekend to take on the Huskies. The two teams are tied for top spot in Canada West at 13-3-2 and typically play intense games against each other. The two games in October resulted in a 5-4 win for the Huskies in a shootout and a 2-1 overtime win for the Bears.

In last Friday night's 3-2 win Jordan Hickmott scored at eight minutes in and Sean Ringrose scored shortly into the second when both teams had a man out on penalty. Greg Gardner had the winning goal as the second period came to a close.

In the next night's 4-2 win Gardner notched another goal along with Jordan Rowley, Levko Koper and Johnny Lazo. Things



CLAUDINE CHAMPION

heated up in the third period as Alberta notched three in the last frame.

TOPS AGAIN FOR WRESTLING SOAUD

Bears and Pandas continue to have a successful season in wrestling by both winning their divisions in last weekend's Golden Bear Open. Saskatchewan, Calgary and Regina also competed. Next up is the Guelph Open Jan. 20-22. Bears and Pandas top three results are as

follows:
Men's 61 kg: 2nd Dylan Williams
Men's 65 kg: 1st Drew Belanger
Men's 68 kg: 3rd Curtis Luu
Men's 76 kg: 1st Coleman Brinker
Women's 48kg: 1st Lyndsay Schneider
Women's 55 kg: 3rd Bethany Fuzzen
Women's 59 kg: 2nd Hayley Thomas, 3rd Jamie Bergenstrom
Women's 63 kg: 1st Marlen Figueroi
Women's 72 kg: 1st Molly Bouchard

UPCOMING ATHLETIC EVENTS

EXPERIENCE IT



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GOLDEN BEARS HOCKEY

CANADA WEST CONFERENCE GAMES

Jan 13 - 14	7:00 PM	@ Saskatchewan
Fri Jan 20	7:00 PM	Lethbridge
Sat Jan 21	7:00 PM	Lethbridge
Jan 27 - 28	7:00 PM	@ British Columbia
Feb 10 - 11	7:00 PM	@ Regina
Fri Feb 17	7:00 PM	Lethbridge
Sat Feb 18	7:00 PM	Lethbridge

CANADA WEST PLAYOFFS

Feb 24 - 26	Quarter-Finals
Mar 2 - 4	Semi-Finals
TBA	Finals

CIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 22 - 25	University Cup @ UNB (Fredericton)
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NON CONFERENCE GAMES / TOURNAMENTS

Sep 23 - 24	4 & 7 PM	Brick Invitational
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FRIDAY JAN 13 - 7 PM

PANDAS HOCKEY VS SASKATCHEWAN

PANDAS HOCKEY

CANADA WEST CONFERENCE GAMES

Fri Jan 13	7:00 PM	Saskatchewan	FREE for U of A students
Sat Jan 14	7:00 PM	Saskatchewan	
Jan 20 - 21	7:00 PM	@ Lethbridge	
Fri Jan 27	7:00 PM	British Columbia	
Sat Jan 28	7:00 PM	British Columbia	
Feb 11 - 12	2:00 PM	@ Regina	

CANADA WEST PLAYOFFS

Feb 17 - 19	Semi-Finals
Feb 24 - 26	Finals

LEGACY GAME
FREE ADMISSION
for U of A Students!

GOLDEN BEARS BASKETBALL PANDAS

CANADA WEST CONFERENCE GAMES

	PANDAS	GOLDEN BEARS	VS
Fri Jan 13	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Lethbridge
Sat Jan 14	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Lethbridge
Fri Jan 20	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Thompson Rivers
Sat Jan 21	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	British Columbia Okanagan
Jan 27 - 28	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	@ Calgary
Feb 3 - 4	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	@ Regina
Fri Feb 10	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Brandon
Sat Feb 11	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Brandon

CANADA WEST PLAYOFFS

Feb 23 - 26	Quarter-Finals
Mar 2 - 3	Final Four

CIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mar 9 - 10	Round One @ TBD
Mar 9 - 11	1 @ Halifax
Mar 16 - 18	@ Calgary

VARSIITY SPORTS

WRESTLING

Feb 10 - 11	CW Finals @ Regina
Feb 24 - 25	CIS Championship @ Lakehead (Thunder Bay)

GOLF

May 28 - Jun 1	University/College Championship @ Victoria
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CURLING

Feb 16 - 18	Western Regional Qualifier @ Manitoba (Winnipeg)
Mar 14 - 18	CIS Championship @ Brock (St. Catharines)

SWIMMING

Jan 27 - 29	CW Finals Edmonton (Kinsmen Centre)
Feb 23 - 25	CIS Championship @ Montreal

TRACK AND FIELD

Jan 20 - 22	Golden Bears & Pandas Open
Feb 25 - 26	CW Finals @ Saskatchewan (Saskatoon)
Mar 8 - 10	CIS Championship @ Manitoba (Winnipeg)

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YOUR TICKETS
TODAY!**

INDIVIDUAL GAME DAY TICKETS

	GB Hockey / GB&P Basketball / GB&P Volleyball / GB Football Conference	Playoffs	P Hockey / GB&P Soccer Conference/Playoffs
Adult	\$15	\$16	\$10
Student/Senior	\$10	\$11	\$5
U of A Student	\$7	\$8	\$5
(2 Adults, 2-3 Kids) Family	\$40	\$40	\$25

* U of A Students must display valid student one-card with U-pass stickers.

* Kids 5 and under are free.

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For upcoming weekend conference games only.	
GB Hockey / GB&P Basketball / GB&P Volleyball / GB Football	
Adult	\$12
Student/Senior	\$8
U of A Student	\$5

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Conference	\$50 - up to 20 kids & 2 adults
Playoffs	\$75 - up to 20 kids & 2 adults



PANDAS HOCKEY

March 8 - 11
Clare Drake Arena 88 Ave. & 115 St.



Proud host of the
**CIS WOMEN'S HOCKEY
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

GOLDEN BEARS VOLLEYBALL PANDAS

CANADA WEST CONFERENCE GAMES

	PANDAS	GOLDEN BEARS	VS
Jan 13 - 14	6/5 PM	8/7 PM	@ Trinity Western
Jan 20 - 21	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	@ British Columbia Okanagan
Fri Jan 27	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Calgary
Sat Jan 28	7:30 PM	6:00 PM	Calgary
Fri Feb 3	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Regina
Sat Feb 4	7:30 PM	6:00 PM	Regina
Feb 10 - 11	6:00 PM	7:45 PM	@ Brandon

CANADA WEST PLAYOFFS

Feb 17 - 19	Quarter-Finals
Feb 24 - 25	Final Four

CIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mar 2 - 4	@ McMaster (Hamilton)	@ Queen's (Kingston)
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FRIDAY JAN 27 - 6 PM
**GOLDEN BEARS & PANDAS VOLLEYBALL
VS CALGARY**

LEGACY GAME
FREE ADMISSION
for U of A Students!

PLUS Hudsons Party Pass Night



HOME GAME VENUES

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- Basketball and Volleyball play at Saville Community Sports Centre 11610 - 65 Ave
- Wrestling, Track and Field & Swimming compete at U of A Pavilion / Van Vliet Centre 87 Ave. & 114 St.



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NEW!

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FREE ADMISSION for all U of A Students!

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Young, but not Invincible

obesity and chronic health problems in young adults

by Rachel Singer



To be young is to feel immortal and invincible. But it means young adults often ignore risk factors associated with the development of chronic diseases commonly believed to be associated with middle-age.

However, studies paint a picture of increasing obesity in young adults, which in turn is contributing to increased rates of chronic illnesses such as cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, type II diabetes and polycystic ovarian syndrome. But these diseases not only affect the obese, but can also have future negative health impacts on young adults who appear lean and healthy but have poor eating habits and are physically inactive.

In 2009, 17.9 per cent of Canadian adults, approximately 4.4 million, were classified as obese — which means a body mass index of 30 or greater — according to Statistics Canada. From 2003 to 2009, obesity among men increased from 16 per cent to 19 per cent, and among women it rose from 14.5 per cent to 16.7 per cent. When adults who were overweight were factored in, 59.2 per cent of Canadian men and 43.9 per cent of Canadian women were considered at an increased health risk due to excess weight.

According to Dr. André Corriveau, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health with Alberta

Health and Wellness, a lot of work must be done to stop the progression of obesity and to reverse the trend so that obesity rates begin to fall back to normal ranges. And doctors are turning their attention on the youth, where they see the root of the problem.

"The focus on the national level is very much on childhood obesity because it is basically the starting point and we know that a large proportion of kids and especially adolescents who are obese will remain obese during their lifetime and they will also experience the negative health impacts of obesity much earlier," Corriveau said.

Donna Vine, a professor in the U of A's Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Sciences, agrees that childhood obesity should be the primary target to stop the rise in obesity. Her research focuses on dyslipidemia (high blood cholesterol levels) and its relationship to the development of cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, polycystic ovarian syndrome and pre-diabetes. In the past few years she has seen an increase in obesity among children, which can lead to a greater chance of the child developing a chronic disease later on. These obese children enter their teen years and then adulthood with predisposing factors such as high blood glucose, dyslipidemia or high levels of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, sometimes referred to as "bad" cholesterol.

“I don’t think enough people are in charge of their own health. For example males between the ages of 22 to 45 typically don’t go to the doctor unless they are falling down dead. Unless you go regularly over time no one is checking or catching the development of chronic diseases.”

Lisa Tremblay

Pediatric Centre for Weight and Health

“You are almost protected in adolescence and as a young adult because you seem healthy, you look healthy and unless you are severely overweight you don’t really see a health impact at that time...”

Donna Vine

Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Sciences

“It takes 30 to 40 years to develop a cardiovascular disease blockage of an artery then you get a myocardial infarction (heart attack) or a stroke. So it is actually starting right down in childhood and teenage years and into early adulthood,” Vine said.

Vine believes that many of the early indicators of cardiovascular disease or type II diabetes go undetected in young adults which is a major problem.

“You are almost protected in adolescence and as a young adult because you seem healthy, you look healthy and unless you are severely overweight you don’t really see a health impact at that time, but then when you slip into your 30s or 40s you may start to develop actual symptoms that are then diagnosed,” Vine said.

Vine hopes recommendations will be made to screen younger age groups for things that might indicate a risk of developing a chronic disease, such as high levels of LDL cholesterol, high insulin or glucose levels or low HDL cholesterol. The idea is that the earlier a risk is identified, the easier it is to intervene with diet or exercise before symptoms of a chronic disease appear.

So how can policy makers get people to eat better and be more active when the public has already heard such messages? Vine believes that in order for people to eat better and be more active, they need to be more involved in their health, and that requires better public education about healthy eating and healthier food and lifestyle choices.

Anna Farmer, a professor in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Science, agrees that education is key to stopping the progression of obesity and chronic diseases. She believes that mixed messages have undermined past public health campaigns.

“I think newer, more aggressive approaches are being taken by Alberta Health and Wellness, but I do think the public and university students as well can get overwhelmed by the amount of diversity of nutrition messaging,” Farmer said. She advocates for “a consistent approach to delivering that message so as to try to minimize the extent of confusion.”

While it is commonly believed that being a university student means sacrificing good nutrition and physical activities due to budget and time constraints, university is actually the best time to learn how to establish a balanced life because the “real world” is just as time consuming and demanding. Farmer recognizes that it is not easy for university students who are busy studying and multi-tasking to set aside time for physical activity and recreation but that this is true for most working adults in our society.

“I think it is really important to strike a balance, to try to walk whenever you can, and if eating on the run to try to make healthier choices,” she suggests. She also recommends thinking about nutrition and exercise as a way of investing in oneself, so that eating a well balanced diet and being physically active is viewed as investing in one’s future health and longevity and is not considered a chore.

Lisa Tremblay, an exercise specialist at the Pediatric Centre for Weight and Health in Edmonton, has also noticed a rise in the number of obese children and teenagers with their families coming to the clinic. The clinic is part of Alberta Health Service’s “Weight Wise” initiative for obesity management, and was developed to provide weight management services to overweight children, teens and their families. According to Tremblay, Alberta Health Services is trying to get individuals more involved in

playing a role in their own health. She believes that going to a physician on an annual basis, getting regular screening, learning about family histories and getting educated about disease risk factors are critical steps every individual should take to prevent obesity and reduce the chances of developing a chronic disease in the future.

“I don’t think enough people are in charge of their own health. For example males between the ages of 22 to 45 typically don’t go to the doctor unless they are falling down dead. Unless you go regularly over time no one is checking or catching the development of chronic diseases,” Tremblay said.

There is no easy answer to the rise in obesity and chronic diseases, but for the rates to decrease individuals need to take responsibility for their health. This means making healthier food choices, increasing physical activity and becoming better educated about chronic disease risk factors and symptoms to ensure a healthy future for as long as possible.

Alberta Health Services has established programs and has been creating new guidelines to combat the obesity and chronic disease problems in Alberta. Alberta Health and Wellness has developed guidelines for nutrition in schools and other setting such as in recreational facilities. As well this past summer Alberta Health Services released its obesity strategy.

According to Corriveau, the province’s plan is to reduce and reverse the rise in obesity and chronic diseases.

“Alberta has always been in the front line in this area. So our guidelines are seen across the country to be the more stringent and best evidence-based guidelines that anybody’s using so we are often used now as a model by other provinces.”

Diversions

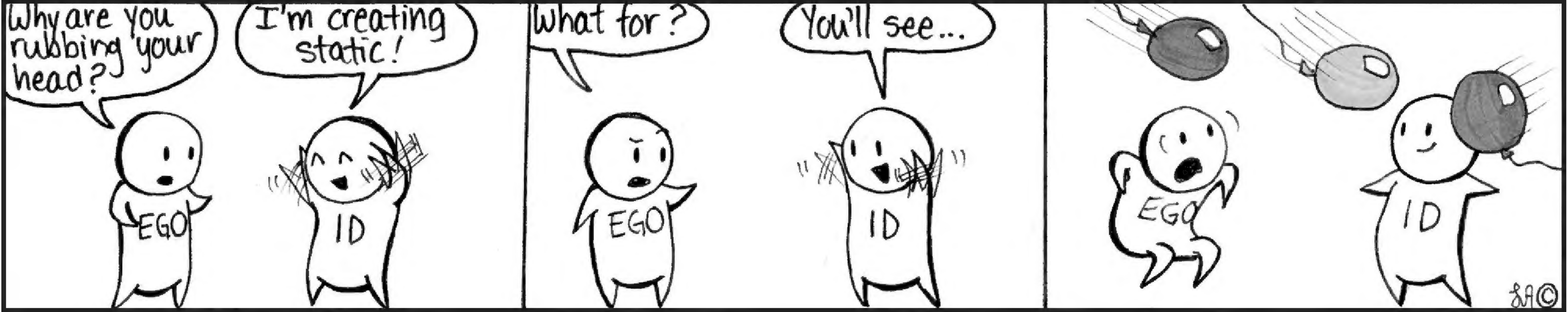
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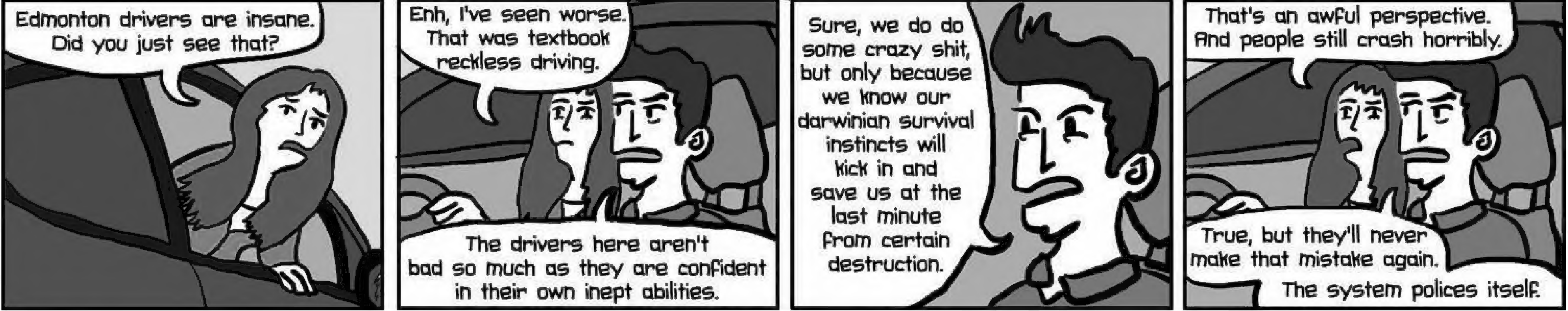
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POP & ICE CREAM by Lance and Evan Mudryk



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DULLWIT by Jenelle Pederson



crossword

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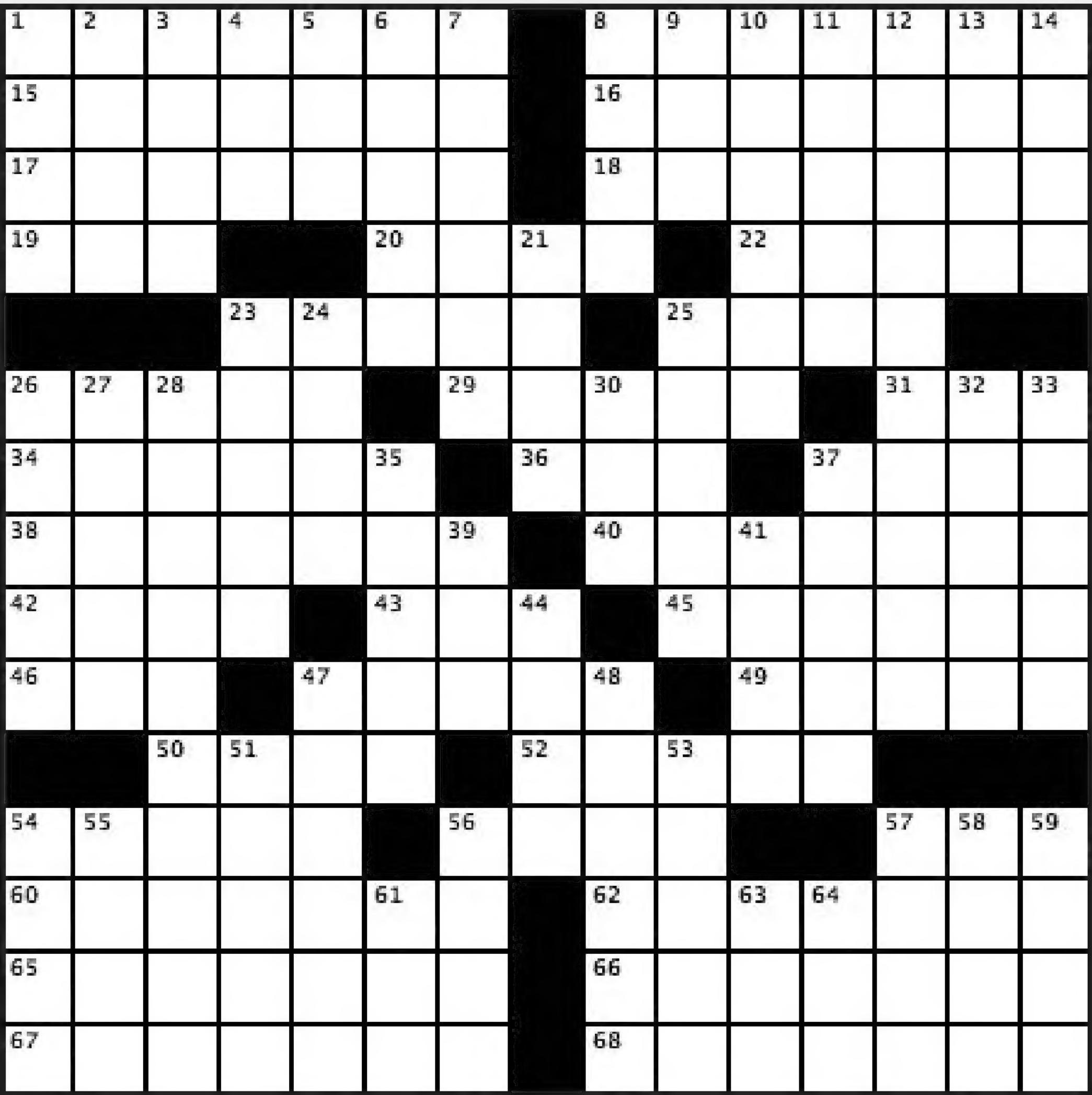
Across

- 1. Love affair
- 8. A chewy candy
- 15. High-spirited horse
- 16. Function
- 17. One of the Furies
- 18. Cornmeal mush
- 19. Enzyme ending
- 20. Comply
- 22. Syrian leader
- 23. Small hand drum
- 25. Westernmost of the Aleutians
- 26. Hi hi
- 29. French school
- 31. Dash lengths
- 34. Majestic
- 36. Boater or bowler
- 37. "South Park" kid
- 38. Floating mass
- 40. Ecstasy
- 42. "Judith" composer
- 43. Cycle starter
- 45. Person with a paper, perhaps
- 46. O.T. book
- 47. African wader
- 49. Summit
- 50. Slippery ___ eel
- 52. Plumber's tool
- 54. Carries on
- 56. 3:00
- 57. French possessive

- 60. Listener
- 62. Hard to define
- 65. Kitchen gadgets
- 66. Narc
- 67. Cooked but still firm
- 68. Wrap with bandages

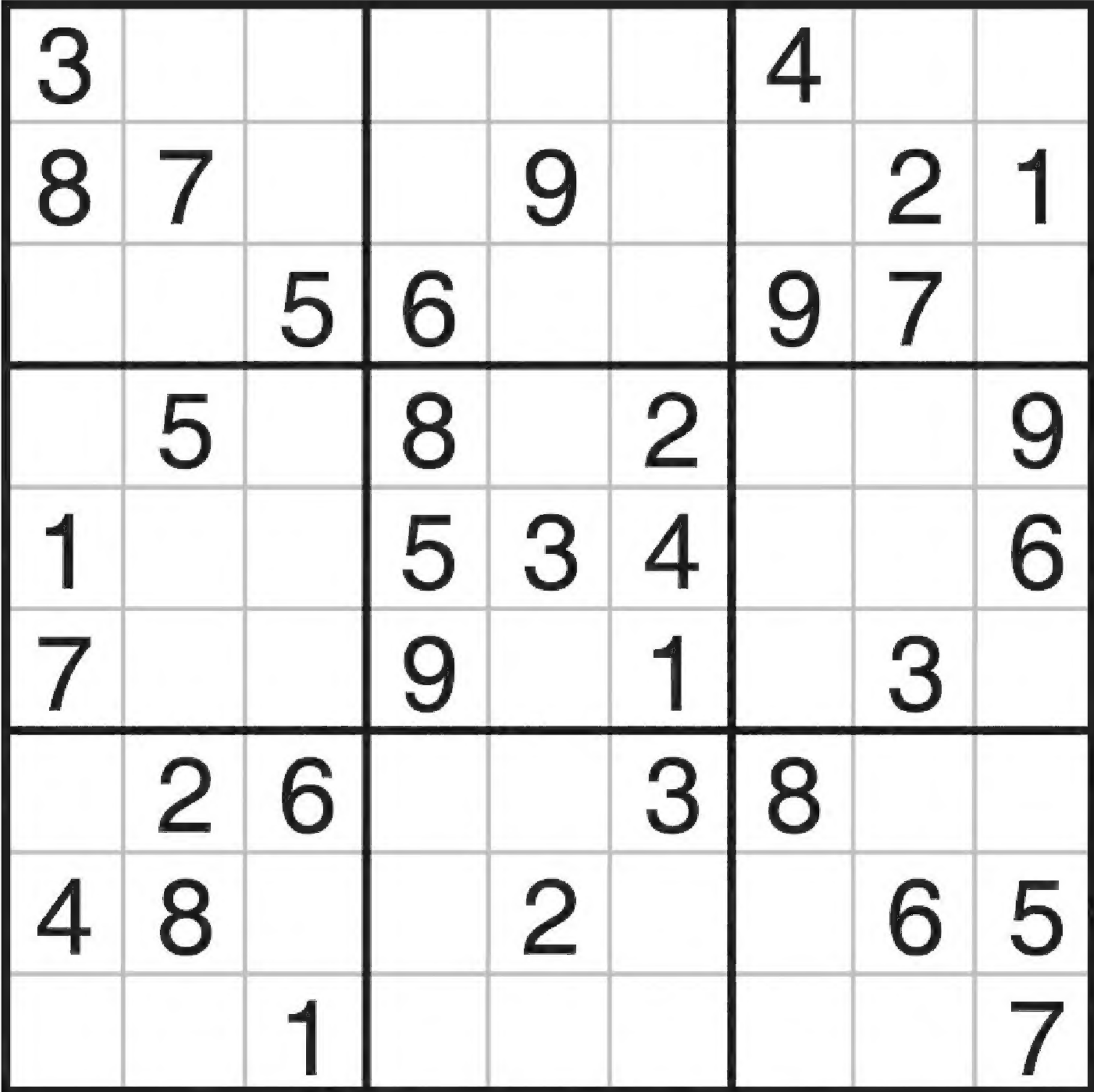
Down

- 1. Avatar of Vishnu
- 2. Metal containers
- 3. Merlin, e.g.
- 4. Attorney's org.
- 5. Never, in Nuremberg
- 6. Chocolate substitute
- 7. Allow
- 8. Reproduction
- 9. GI mail drop
- 10. Narrate
- 11. Give it ___!
- 12. Gentleness
- 13. Blues singer James
- 14. Be in front
- 21. "From ___ according to his abilities..."
- 23. Monetary unit of Botswana
- 24. Bern's river
- 25. Communion table
- 26. Continental identity of a Chinese person
- 27. "Filthy" money
- 28. Liberal
- 30. Boat propeller
- 32. Nostrils
- 33. Hagar the Horrible's dog



- 35. Boston hockey player
- 37. Blank look
- 39. Econ. indicator
- 41. Quarter bushel
- 44. Res ___ loquitor
- 47. Hurry
- 48. Beginnings
- 51. Subway turner
- 53. Attorney follower
- 54. ___ Nui (Easter Island)
- 55. "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author
- 56. Celtic tongue
- 57. Immature herring
- 58. Daredevil Knieval
- 59. Parched
- 61. Leftover
- 63. "Respect for Acting" author Hagen
- 64. Avg.

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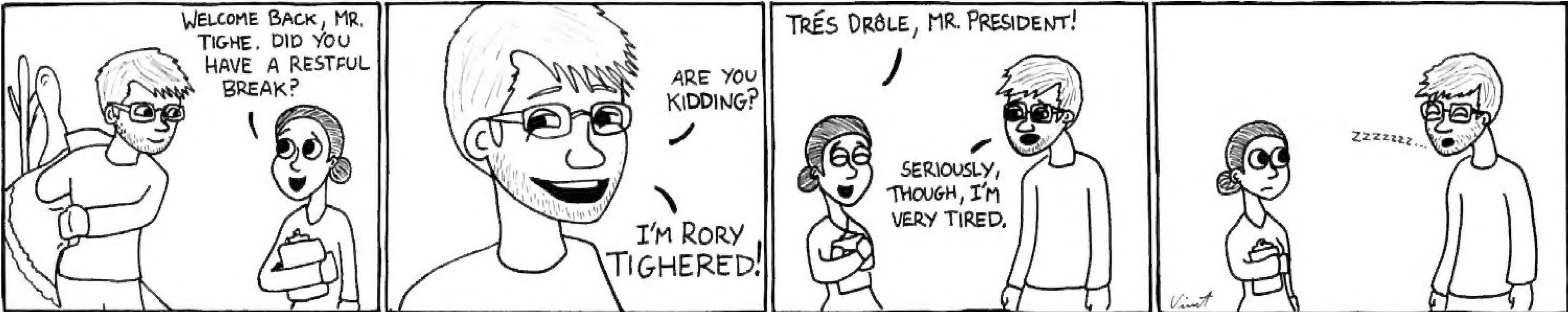
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- 3. Have the President of something
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